00038091

NOT TO BE ISSUED
OUT OF THE LIBRARY.

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 10 February, 2016

TWELVE YEARS' WANDERINGS

IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

FROM 1835 TO 1847.

38031

BY J. C. BYRNE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.
1848.

P.P.6.Tw.1
38091

LONDON:
Printed by Schulze and Co., 13, Poland Street.

00038091

CONTENTS

TO THE

SECOND VOLUME.

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND; OR, TASMANIA.

CHAPTER I.

Original discovery—Settlement—Climate — Soil — Aborigines — Produce—Imports and Exports—Monetary affairs—Population—Markets . . . . . 3—23

CHAPTER II.

Hobart Town—Launceston—Port Arthur—Crown Lands—Minerals—Timber—Native animals—Whaling trade. . . 24—46

CHAPTER III.

Penal question—Statistics of the convict population of Van Dieman's Land—Probation system—Circular of the Governor as to whether it be advisable that transportation should cease—Opinions of the colonists — Great meeting at Hobart Town — The Colonial Office . . . . . 46—106

CHAPTER IV.

Causes of the failure of the assignment and probation system of Penal discipline—A new system suggested . . . 107—124

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CHAPTER I.

Original settlement and Progress—Governors Gawler and Grey—Increase of stock—Land sales and cultivation—Imports and exports—Revenue and expenditure—Growth of wool — Banking—Population and occupation—Rates of wages—Retail markets and price current—Freights . . . . . 127—163

CHAPTER II.

Crown lands regulations—Imposition of royalty tax upon minerals—Evils of such a tax—Mining and mineral wealth—Progress of occupation—Scarcity of surface water—The River Murray and Lake Alexandrina . . . . . 164—215

CHAPTER III.

An overland journey from New South Wales to South Australia in the year 1839 . . . . . 216—259

CHAPTER IV.

Adelaide: situation, extent, population—Public buildings—Places of worship—Port Adelaide—Climate of the colony—Soil—Reptiles—The Bunyip and Mindai—Aborigines—Cannibalism—Education—Government and judicature—State of society—Prospects of the colony . . . . . 260—298

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

CHAPTER I.

Discovery—Settlement—Soil—Climate—Produce—Imports and exports —Revenue—Markets—Religion and the press . . 301—317

CHAPTER II.

The Aborigines — Population — Situation — Whaling and sealing— Habits and mode of life—Minerals—Animals—Progress and prospects . . . . . 318—364

COLONIZATION AND EMIGRATION.

Remarks upon Emigration and Colonization as conducted at present, and modes suggested by which it may be extensively promoted 329—364

APPENDIX . . . . . 367—411

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND;

OR,

TASMANIA.

TWELVE YEARS' WANDERINGS

IN

THE BRITISH COLONIES.

CHAPTER I.

ORIGINAL DISCOVERY—SETTLEMENT—CLIMATE—SOIL—ABORIGINES —PRODUCE — IMPORTS AND EXPORTS — MONETARY AFFAIRS — POPULATION—MARKETS.

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND is an island situated near the south-eastern extremity of the mainland of New Holland, or Australasia, or Australia. It extends from 40° 40′ to 43° 40′ S. latitude, and lies between the meridians of 144° 40′, and 148° 20′ east. The surface of the island is about twenty-four thousand square miles, which is very nearly the extent of Ireland.

Van Dieman's Land was discovered in 1642 by Tasman, a Dutch navigator, despatched from Batavia by the Dutch, on a voyage to ascertain how far south Austral-Asia extended. Van Dieman was the name bestowed by Tasman on the land he first fell in with, in 46° south. He so called it in honour of the Governor-General, who at that time presided at Batavia; but in remembrance of its first discoverer, it is frequently called Tasmania.

Tasman sailed for some distance along the coast without ascertaining that it was an island; nay, although it was visited at various periods by English and French navigators, particularly by Captain Cook in 1771, yet that fact remained unknown till many years after the settlement of the colony of New South Wales in 1788.

To the enterprise and perseverance of Surgeon Bass and Lieutenant Flinders, the discovery of the insular character of Van Dieman's Land is due. In an open boat, in 1790, they explored the south-east coast of New Holland, and satisfied themselves that a strait separated Van Dieman's Land from the main. Governor Hunter afterwards despatched these two gentlemen in a small schooner, to prove the truth of their conjecture; and this they did by circumnavigating the island. The strait between the island and the main was named, after its discoverer, Bass's Strait.

In the year 1803, the first settlement was effected by a party sent from Sydney for the purpose, under the command of Lieutenant Bowen. Its site was on the banks of the Derwent River, some distance below, and on the opposite side of the stream to that on which Hobart Town is at present built. The first settlement was founded for the purpose of transporting thither offenders from Sydney.

The year following the landing of Lieutenant Bowen, Lieutenant-Governor Collins arrived with two ships, the Ocean and Calcutta, with upwards of four hundred convicts and fifty marines on board. The chief officials necessary to fill the various departments of a new colonial settlement, accompanied the Governor.

This functionary had been despatched from England for

the purpose of founding a colony on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, on the mainland; but not finding fresh water there, he proceeded to the southern shores of Van Dieman's Land. He also changed the site of the settlement from the eastern to the western bank of the River Derwent, higher up the stream.

In 1804, a second expedition was sent from Sydney, and a settlement was effected by Colonel Paterson, on the northern side of the island, close to the mouth of the Tamar, which is one of the principal rivers in the island.

The first few years of the colony were periods of extreme suffering and privation: the necessaries of life were sold at most exorbitant prices, and not unfrequently actual famine stared the first inhabitants in the face, for they had to depend for supplies entirely on their imports. After surmounting these difficulties, which was effected by producing corn for home consumption, the progress of the island was gradual, but hopeful. Stock was first introduced in 1807, and the climate being propitious, its increase was rapid.

The population also was much improved by the arrival of many free persons from Norfolk Island, when it was evacuated by its original settlers, and taken possession of by the Crown, who had designed to make it exclusively a penal settlement.

In 1818, whilst Colonel Sorell was Governor of the island, a road was formed across its centre, from Hobart Town, on the River Derwent to the south, to Launceston, the chief settlement on the River Tamar to the north. This great internal communication, forming as it were a main artery through the heart of the island, has been of incalculable benefit in developing the resources of the country.

Up to 1821, Van Dieman's Land was solely a penal settlement for the transportation of convicts from Sydney; but in 1821, and thenceforth, numerous free settlers from Great Britain arrived, whose coming was of vast benefit to the place, causing the introduction of capital and the rapid improvement of the land, the erection of buildings, and the promotion of measures advantageous to the island.

Although stock was not introduced into Van Dieman's Land until 1807, yet in 1821 the sheep amounted to 170,000, and the cattle to 36,000. There were besides several hundred horses. The entire population at the same period—free and bond, infants and adults—amounted to 7,185.

From the foundation of the colony to 1825, the island was a dependency of the superior government of Sydney. This weighed heavily on the inhabitants, as their actions at law, above £50, had to be submitted to the courts at Sydney, and all prisoners accused of grave offences were forwarded there for trial, whither the prosecutors had to proceed, to the serious loss of their time, and injury of their interests at home.

In 1825, Van Dieman's Land was separated by an order in Council from New South Wales, and declared entirely independent of the elder colony, a separate and distinct legislative, executive, and judicial body being established.

The Government, at the present time, is invested in the hands of a Lieutenant-Governor and Council, the number of the latter being fixed at fifteen, all of whom are appointed by the Crown or the Governor for the time being. The

Courts, civil and criminal, are presided over by a Chief Justice and one Puisne Judge. The Legislative Council, presided over by the Governor, have the power of making laws for the colony, subject to the approval of the Sovereign. But little change has been effected in the constitution of the colony since 1825, and it has not yet acquired either those municipal or legislative privileges that have been extended within the last few years, to New South Wales and Australia Felix.

Since 1813, no inconsiderable number of convicts had been transported to Van Dieman's Land, not only from New South Wales, but also from England. When the colony was declared independent of Sydney, these arrivals became more frequent, and towards 1830, the annual transportations from the mother country were very large, and caused a great increase in the number of the population.

As the expense of maintaining the entire convict population of Van Dieman's Land would be immense, the custom prevailed up to 1840, of assigning them to such of the settlers as thought fit to apply for them; the assignee being only bound to supply them with certain specified clothes and rations, without any remuneration for their labour. This system had the effect of making labour both cheap and plentiful, and the consequence has been the growth of large quantities of agricultural produce.

Situated to the southward of Australasia, the climate is considerably colder than New South Wales, but yet more temperate than Great Britain. The seasons are the reverse of those in Europe: June, July and August are the winter months; December, January and February, the summer.

The heat in the latter season is at times very great, the thermometer rising to 100° in the shade; but yet a refreshing breeze, night and morning, always prevails. Such is the purity of the atmosphere, that this high temperature is never felt to be oppressive, and it continues also but for a short time. Autumn is rather a pleasant period, with occasional rains, the thermometer ranging, during the day, from 63 to 69 degrees in the shade. The atmosphere during this time is particularly pure and mild.

In winter, frosts are of constant occurrence, and there are sometimes heavy falls of snow; and among the gulleys and sheltered spots of Ben Lomond and the western ranges, it continues throughout the year undissolved, a consequence of the elevation at which it lies. The severity of the winter is, however, never such as to preclude the husbandman from daily field labour, for the presence of the warm rays of the mid-day sun is sure to make itself felt.

In winter, the average range of the thermometer is from 43° to 49°; in summer, from 66° to 76°. The climate may be compared to that of Spain, although perhaps there is not such severity in the winter season. It is particularly healthy, and the inhabitants enjoy almost a complete absence of all pulmonary complaints. The bleakness of an English winter does not prevail in Van Dieman's Land, for the trees are evergreen, and always exhibit a cheering foliage of bright and varied hues.

A great portion of the surface of Van Dieman's Land is occupied by precipitous hills and steep, deep gulleys, almost inaccessible, and covered with dense forests and thick close underwood and *scrub*, with trailing plants from tree

to tree: this is particularly the character of the country on the western side of the island. Towards the interior, the country is more even and open, yet considerably elevated above the level of the sea. Plains of large extent and grassy downs exist in the interior, the soil of which is, for the most part, well suited for cultivation.

The rivers and streams are very numerous, and their banks present large spaces of alluvial soil of a rich quality, capable of producing in perfection all kinds of grain, pulse, green vegetables, and potatoes. There are numerous farms near the banks of the chief rivers, particularly the Derwent, Macquarie, Tamar, and Esk. On these farms, maize thrives wonderfully, and all kinds of English and many tropical fruits flourish in perfection.

Much of the land having been originally covered with timber, the settlers have been at considerable expense in clearing and cultivating the soil, a labour which has, in a great measure, been effected by convicts; yet, of course, the expense of maintenance has fallen upon the assignee; and, from the small quantity of work generally performed by convicts, this has been considerable.

Unlike New Holland, Van Dieman's Land appears to bear few, if any, volcanic traces. The chief substratum of the island is basalt: limestone and sandstone are both very plentiful. In various places there are found extensive vegetable deposits, at one time covered with huge timber, but now partially cleared, having given way to the cultivated fields of the industrious settler. In the interior, in some parts, the substratum has been found to be limestone, and on this the decomposed deposits of ages on ages have formed a thick crust of soil, sometimes of great fertility.

The springs are very numerous, and no doubt tend to enrich the soil and cherish the plants, shrubs and herbage which so densely cover that vast surface which has not yet been attempted to be reclaimed. On the whole, a small portion only of this island is suitable for agricultural purposes; perhaps not one tenth of the whole, and much of this is so very thickly wooded, that it would be a most unprofitable speculation to clear it for farming pursuits. The herbage, although very nutritive, is generally scanty; and it requires a large breadth to pasture a sheep or beast. One great advantage the island possesses:—it is not subject to the excessive droughts of New South Wales, the soil being refreshed by frequent showers. At times a hot wind blows from the northward, but is never of long continuance, and does not much affect the crops or herbage.

The Aborigines of Van Dieman's land must now be spoken of, but as a people that have been: not one is known to exist on the island, the miserable remnant of them that yet continue to drag out a weary existence being retained on Flinders' Island in Bass's Straits, from which they cannot escape, and a government establishment at that place supplying their wants.

Since their confinement on this island some fifteen years ago, their number has very much decreased; and in a few years probably the race will be totally extinct.

If it was difficult to civilize the Australian Aborigines, it was almost impossible to reclaim those of Van Dieman's Land. In person somewhat alike, but with woolly hair instead of the long black locks of the Australians, the Van Dieman's Land Aborigines, from the first arrival of the whites, were in a constant state of warfare with them

Brave and ruthless, they resolutely resisted all encroachments on their soil, and vented their revenge on the outstations and farms of the settlers. No doubt this determined enmity was excited by the aggressions and cruelties of the whites, for the Aborigines were shot down with as little pity or hesitation as though they had been wild beasts.

The Aborigines, however, became so desperate, and so daring in their attacks, that in 1834, Governor Arthur resolved upon a sweeping measure to get rid of them. The entire population of the country was called out; and commencing to the northward, a cordon of armed men was formed, and the island swept right across, with the intention of driving the Aborigines into Tasman's Peninsula—which is a narrow neck of land—and there keeping them prisoners.

Although the entire population were engaged for some months on this service, and upwards of £50,000 were spent in the enterprise, yet it proved a total failure, and not one native was captured by "the line," which they managed to break through, and elude at various points.

Policy ultimately effected what force was unable to accomplish. Mr. Robinson, at present chief Protector in Australia Felix, and some other whites who had gained the confidence of the Aborigines, by degrees enticed them to various places, where they were surrounded, taken, and transported to Flinders' Island, for permanent security. No doubt can exist that these Aborigines were naturally a cruel and treacherous race. If any proof were wanting, it would be found in the fact, that Mr. Robinson, who accompanied them to Flinders' Island, and remained there

for some years, took great pains to instruct and educate two males and their wives, constantly keeping them about his person, and, in fact, treating them like his own children. Years passed away: Mr. Robinson was appointed chief Protector of the Aborigines in Australia Felix, and considering that the men might be of some service to him, he took them and their wives with him to Melbourne. In the vicinity of that town, at Mr. Robinson's house, they still continued to dwell for some time; but to the astonishment of all, and particularly of Mr. Robinson himself, they took the bush in 1842, and after plundering some out-stations towards Western Port, fell in with a party of sealers, unarmed, one of whom they murdered without any provocation. They were taken after a long pursuit, tried and condemned to death; the women being pardoned, as it was considered that they had acted under the influence of the men, who were executed for the offence. They were the first two persons ever hung in Australia Felix.

The number of the Aborigines was originally very limited: in 1804 it was calculated that there were not one thousand natives on the entire island. Not one-fifth of that number remained in 1834, when they were removed from their country. It is melancholy and disheartening to dwell on the extinction of an entire race of our fellow beings; but no doubt, in Van Dieman's Land, the intercourse of the convict and felon with the native, tended to hasten and complete the fate of the children of nature, thinly scattered over a country where, by hunting and fishing, they found a plentiful provision for their wants.

The produce of Van Dieman's Land is, in some respects,

similar to that of New South Wales; wool and oil forming two large items in the list of its exports. Agriculture is, however, the main employment of its inhabitants; and the wheat grown is particularly fine in quality and heavy in grain, averaging from 60 lbs. to 65 lbs. per bushel, and in some cases even more. Grain is indeed the staple of the island, and its production is annually vastly increasing, as the following return will show. It will be remembered that this export, after supporting a large convict population, is employed in Government and unproductive labour. Launceston and Hobart Town are the two great shipping-ports; indeed it may be said the only ones that are made available.

The following return is extracted from a Van Dieman's Land Journal, the Launceston Examiner, June 13th, 1847.

Exports.	Wheat Bushels	Oats Bushels	Barley Bushels	Flour Tons
1840.				
Launceston . . .	50,125	69,994	11,441	1833¾
Hobart Town . .	39,302	11,300	12,410	997
1841.				
Launceston . . .	43,186	27,986	8,119	
Hobart Town . .	35,845	591	4,560	
1842.				
Launceston . . .	100,728	49,544	9,032	2,265
Hobart Town . .	14,930	1,208	1,740	1,162
1843.				
Launceston . . .	236,953	64,430	10,007	1,831¼
Hobart Town . .	14,615	1,531	3,573	857¼
1844.				
Launceston . . .	272,941	38,526	8,006	1,844
Hobart Town . .	15,521	3,295	1,225	1,127¾
1845.				
Launceston . . .	188,805	27,177	15,142	1,316¾
Hobart Town . .	25,396	2,294	4,551	644
1846.				
Launceston . . .	369,722	31,136	7,785	2,067
Hobart Town . .	65,249	5,166	12,332	1,482¾

The following are the returns of general exports:

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM LAUNCESTON TO GREAT BRITAIN FOR 1846.

Wool	Bales	6,904
Less from New South Wales		1,455
Total		5,449
Wheat	Bushels	137,312
Black Oil	Tuns	72
Bark	Tons	158
Tallow	Casks	2
Leather	Bales	48
Horns		4,451
Bones	Tons	2
Curiosities	Cases	5
Mimosa Gum	Do.	5
Gum Plank	Feet	5,000
Trenails		56,365
Blackwood	Pieces	56
Gun Stocks		796

besides sundries from New South Wales, South Australia, New Zealand, and Australia Felix, not the produce of the island.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM HOBART TOWN TO GREAT BRITAIN FOR 1846.

Wool	Bales	5,619
Less from New South Wales		105
Total		5,514
Wheat	Bushels	24,711
Black Oil	Tuns	1,074
Sperm Oil	,,	284
Whalebone	Tons	40¾

Bark	Tons	31
Tallow	Casks	28
Leather	Bales	61
Flour	Tons	207
Gum	Planks	121
Paling		900
Trenails		950
Horns		2,300
Potatoes	Baskets	20
Turnip Seed	Bags	7
Gum (Mimosa)	Cases	215
Ditto	Bags	392
Kangaroo Skins	Cask	1
Curiosities	Cases	10

Also 3,000 bushels of wheat, the produce of South Australia; and three cases and forty-five tons of gum from New Zealand.

The previous returns, it will be perceived, only include the exports to Great Britain alone; but the following includes the total exports to all places from the port of Launceston, for the year ending January 5th, 1847, being all the produce of the colony:

Bark	Tons	361
Flour	,,	1,891
Hay	,,	519
Wheat	Bushels	367,421
Oats	,,	7,763
Barley	,,	30,841
Bran	,,	18,374
Potatoes	Tons	1,529
Oil	,,	61
Whalebone	,,	1½
Wool	Bales	6,841

Skins and Leather, value	£1,175	
Horned Cattle	Number	77
Horses	,,	1,073
Sheep	,,	568
Timber, value	£3,632	

The number of vessels entered outwards, at the Port of Launceston in 1846, was 220; tonnage, 27,295; number of men manned by, 1,943.

The following compiled returns will show the imports and exports for six years, ending 1846, and will afford the reader an opportunity of judging of the result of the probation system on the prosperity of the island.

IMPORTS FOR 1840.

	£	s.	d.
From Great Britain and Ireland	737,251	0	0
,, British Colonies	217,033	0	0
,, United States	6,896	0	0
,, Foreign Countries	27,176	0	0
Total	£988,356	0	0

EXPORTS FOR 1840.

To Great Britain and Ireland	334,156	0	0
,, British Colonies	531,321	0	0
,, United States	1,530	0	0
Total	£867,007	0	0

IMPORTS FOR 1841.

From Great Britain and Ireland	685,875	0	0
,, British Colonies	135,148	0	0
,, United States	6,277	0	0
,, Foreign States	24,681	0	0
Total	£851,981	0	0

EXPORTS FOR 1841.

	£	s.	d.
To Great Britain and Ireland	357,862	0	0
,, British Colonies	271,899	0	0
,, United States	Nil		
,, Foreign States	740	0	0
Total	£630,501	0	0

IMPORTS FOR 1842.

From Great Britain and Ireland	401,738	0	0
,, British Colonies	145,181	0	0
,, United States	5,287	0	0
,, Foreign States	35,247	0	0
Total	£587,453	0	0

EXPORTS FOR 1842.

To Great Britain and Ireland	299,198	0	0
,, British Colonies	276,478	0	0
,, United States	4,158	0	0
,, Foreign States	2,675	0	0
Total	£582,509	0	0

IMPORTS FOR 1843.

From Great Britain and Ireland	471,026	0	0
,, British Colonies	192,896	0	0
,, United States	1,635	0	0
,, Foreign States	39,703	0	0
Total	£705,260	0	0

EXPORTS FOR 1843.

To Great Britain and Ireland	252,102	0	0
,, British Colonies	185,174	0	0
,, United States	75	0	0
,, Foreign States	2,539	0	0
Total	£439,890	0	0

IMPORTS FOR 1844.

	£	s.	d.
From Great Britain and Ireland	303,097	0	0
,, British Colonies	124,675	0	0
,, United States	8,812	0	0
,, Foreign States	6,404	0	0
Total	£442,988	0	0

EXPORTS FOR 1844.

To Great Britain and Ireland	252,980	0	0
,, British Colonies	151,406	0	0
,, United States	Nil		
,, Foreign States	4,413	0	0
Total	£408,799	0	0

IMPORTS FOR 1845.

From Great Britain and Ireland	339,119	0	0
,, British Colonies	153,281	0	0
,, United States	5,567	0	0
,, Foreign States	22,595	0	0
Total	£520,562	0	0

EXPORTS FOR 1845.

To Great Britain and Ireland	242,561	0	0
,, British Colonies	175,373	0	0
,, United States	Nil		
,, Foreign States	4,284	0	0
Total	£422,218	0	0

The returns of exports for 1846 are given elsewhere in detail; they also exhibit a sad falling off in all articles

except grain, the exportation of which was induced by the high prices in Great Britain. In the space of six years, it will be perceived, the imports and exports have both decreased about one half, a convincing proof, if one were wanting, that the probation system does not promote, and is not necessary to, the prosperity and advancement of the colony.

Notwithstanding the increased commissariat expenditure in the island, the imports gradually lessened; and if the necessaries imported for the convict department were deducted, the reduction would be materially enlarged. In every branch of commerce, trade is monthly decreasing; and this is further exemplified by the decrease of banking facilities since 1842. There were then in the island seven banking establishments and their branches; viz.: the Commercial Bank, Van Dieman's Land Bank, Union Bank of Australia, Australasian Bank, the Derwent Bank, the Colonial Bank, and Messrs. Archer, Gilles, and Co's. Bank. The three latter have been discontinued, and the others are at present the entire that exist in the colony.

The currency of Van Dieman's Land is not confined to British coin: Spanish dollars and East India Company's rupees pass current. The former was constituted a legal tender by an Act of the Legislative Council at the value of 4*s*. 4*d*., and the rupee also at 2*s*. South American dollars are also current, under a proclamation issued by Sir George Arthur, the Governor of the Island in 1834, at the same value as Spanish dollars. The Van Dieman's Land banks are banks of issue, and their returns are as follows:

THE VAN DIEMAN'S LAND BANKS.

Assets and liabilities for the quarter ending March 31, 1847.

ASSETS.

	£	s	d
Bank of Van Dieman's Land . . .	168,338	4	7
Commercial Bank	218,915	18	9
Union Bank	356,594	2	5
Australasian Bank	444,712	3	8
	£1,188,560	9	5

LIABILITIES.

	£	s	d
Bank of Van Dieman's Land . . .	83,054	17	3
Commercial Bank	102,164	17	5
Union Bank	145,438	16	2
Australasian Bank	140,570	5	0
	£471,228	15	10

Of the above assets, the sum of £268,510 3*s*. 6*d*. was in specie at the period the return was compiled. The notes issued by these banks, and current in the country, are from one pound in value upwards. Although the currency is not confined to British coin, yet, all transactions, sales and purchases, are computed in pounds, shillings and pence; and all accounts are kept after that manner.

The population of Van Dieman's Land—as far as the free people are concerned—cannot at present be accurately ascertained, as no census has been taken for the last seven years. According to the last census, however, it amounted to 37,088; and it is considered that, since that period, this number has decreased, owing

to the number of persons who have left the island for the neighbouring colonies. The convict population, including those at Norfolk Island, at present—or rather in April 1847—numbered 30,846; the particulars of the latter the writer will give under another head. At the present time, the population of the island, including troops, free inhabitants and convicts, scarce, if at all, exceed 65,000.

Originally founded in 1804, the colony of Van Dieman's Land in that year only numbered a white population of about 400; from that time up to 1824, being chiefly used as a penal settlement for New South Wales, the increase of the inhabitants was slow in comparison with the latter colony. In 1824, the population amounted to 12,643, including the military and Aborigines; in the following ten years, the increase was much more rapid, numbering in 1834, no less than 37,799, including all classes. The free population, in 1834, amounted to 21,084; the convict 15,538; since that time the scale has been turned, and now the free little exceed the bond in number, if indeed they do so at all. It is much to be regretted that no census of the free has, of late years, that is to say, since 1840, been taken, as the relative proportion might form a guide towards the future disposition of the convicts.

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND MARKETS.

LAUNCESTON, MAY 21st, 1847.

Wheat, 3*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.* per bushel.

Cataract and supply mills: fine flour, £10 per ton,

best; £9 per ton, seconds; wheat, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per bushel.

Union Mills: fine flour, per ton, £10; seconds, £8 10*s.*; thirds, £7.

Colonial produce, retail prices: bread, 4lb. loaf, 4*d.*; beef, 4*d.* per lb.; mutton, 3*d.* per lb.; veal, 4*d.* per lb.; pork, 5*d.* per lb.; lamb, 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter; butter, fresh, 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb.; candles, moulds, 6*d.* per lb.; cheese, 10*d.* per lb.; eggs, 1*s.* 2*d.* per dozen.

Imports wholesale: bottled beer, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per dozen; coffee, £56 to £60 per ton; hops, 2*s.* per lb.; London porter, none; rice, 25*s* to 28*s.* per bag; salt, £4 per ton; Hawes' London soap, £42 per ton; Liverpool and Sydney ditto, £28 per ton. Spirits in bond: rum, 4*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per gallon; brandy, 11*s.* per gallon; gin, in cases of four gallons, 25*s.*; Mauritius sugar, £24 to £25 per ton; manilla, £22 to £26 per ton; hyson skin tea, £4 5*s.* to £4 15*s.* per chest; Negro-head tobacco, in kegs, 9*d.* per lb.; in tierces, 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb.

In Hobart Town, the prices of imports are about the same as at Launceston. Colonial produce, meat, wheat and flour, are somewhat higher at all times, owing to the large demand caused by the very great accumulation of convicts in the neighbourhood of Hobart Town. On the 22nd of May, 1847, the price of wheat at the latter place was, from 4*s.* 2*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.* per bushel; malting barley, 5*s.* per bushel; oats, 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* per bushel; the 4lb. loaf (best) 5*d.*; flour, £11 per ton (first); oaten hay, best quality, £5 per ton; potatoes, best, £3 10*s.* per ton.

Clothing, and similar commodities, are, on the average, about 25 per cent dearer than in England. The greater portion of the articles in general use are imported ready-made, the retailers being many of them Jews, who, indeed, are to be found in numbers all over the Australian colonies.

CHAPTER II.

HOBART TOWN — LAUNCESTON — PORT ARTHUR — CROWN LANDS — MINERALS—TIMBER—NATIVE ANIMALS—WHALING TRADE.

THE chief town, and the seat of Government in Van Dieman's Land, is Hobart Town. It is situated on the western bank of the Derwent River, which is here navigable for ships of the largest tonnage. The town is built upon an elevation, and is washed by the waters of the river on one side, and on the other, hemmed in by a high, but detached range, the summit of which is called Mount Wellington, and is particularly bold and striking amidst the surrounding scenery. The buildings cover an extent of about 800 acres of land, but some of them are detached and divided from one another, by small gardens.

The streets, as is usual in most of these colonies, cross each other at right angles, and have been well built by convict labour, which, at the period they were constructed was superabundant. In the main thoroughfares, long ranges of fine shops and warehouses meet the eye, where every want of the colonist can be supplied. The number

of ready-made clothes and slop goods in shops—kept by Jews—are remarkable. These shops, generally speaking, occupy the best situations for trade.

The stores of many of the merchants are substantial and extensive; and there are also flour and saw-mills, worked at some periods of the year by the waters of a small river which runs into the Derwent, and at other times by steam. The total number of houses in 1846, fell little short of 1800; and the town altogether much more resembled an English provincial or sea-port town, than any other in these colonies, if the varied and peculiar dress of the convicts had been excluded from the scene.

The supply of water is good and plentiful, and distributed through the streets and houses by metal pipes, which were laid down by the Government, with the aid of convict labour, some years since. The houses and stores are now either constructed of stone or brick; but there are many wooden erections, built at a former date. The largest edifices raised by private capital are the banks and the hotels; and the number and extent of the public buildings are surprising, considering the age of the settlement. All of these may be said to have been erected solely by convict labour, previous to the introduction of the probation system: at present, public works are almost at a stand-still, for want of money to pay the convicts employed, as it is the policy of the probation system not to exact labour without remuneration.

The prisoners' and the military barracks, standing in separate quarters of the town, are extensive edifices of brick, capable of containing an immense number of individuals.

The principal Protestant Church is also a brick building of respectable size and architecture; there are a Roman Catholic chapel, and various other commodious places of worship, all substantially built. The Court House, the Female Factory, the Colonial Hospital, and the orphan schools without the town, and the commissariat buildings, are all large and adapted to the purposes for which they have been erected. The wharfs are close to the town, and in their vicinity is anchorage for almost any number of vessels of the largest tonnage.

Along the water-side are ship and boat-building yards, whence, from time to time many brigs and schooners for the colonial trade are launched into the beautiful and land-locked waters of the Derwent.

The facilities for loading and discharging vessels are fully equal to those of any port, for ships can lie alongside the wharf, in any state of the tide. The shores of the Derwent are in places studded with groups of neat houses, cottages, and small agricultural farms, whose waving crops of grain impart a still greater beauty to the scene, already endowed by Nature with all the elements of the picturesque. The environs are occupied by the handsome villas of the Hobart Town traders and merchants, imbedded in gardens where every description of European fruit flourishes in perfection.

With the interior, and Launceston on the northern side of the island, there is a daily communication by means of coaches, which also carry mails for the post-office department.

The Lieutenant-Governor resides at Hobart Town, as do the Judges, Attorney-General, Bishop, and the other

chief executive and administrative officers of Government. The Government House is extensive, but has no pretensions to architectural beauty; it stands in the centre of well laid-out grounds, and commands a fine prospect of the river, with its many bays and windings.

The total population of Hobart Town may be about 14,000; but this includes a very large number of convicts, male and female, confined in the barracks, or awaiting hire as pass-holders.

Ticket-of-leave holders are numerous here, taking advantage of their extended liberty, to hang about the chief town, where indulgence of their vices is more easy than in the interior, being less liable to notice. It may be said, that more than one half the populatiou of Hobart Town are either convicts under Government, or in private service. The laxity of discipline exercised over the convicts, generally leads to scenes of mid-day drunkenness and immorality, which it would only shock the reader to recouut.

There are a considerable number of schools supported by the population. There are also a theatre, a large circulating library, a club-house, and various benevolent and philanthropic institutions.

The Derwent is divided at its mouth by Brune Island, so that there are two channels by which the river can be entered—D'Entrecasteaux's Channel to the westward, and Storm Bay to the eastward. The latter is the route generally used by ships, as it is more open, and considerably lessens the distance. The port of Hobart Town, viewed as a commanding and accessible harbour of vast extent, is most valuable to the trade of England in the Australian

colonies and the Pacific; but perhaps its real value will never be acknowledged until a period of war. The defences of the town against foreign invasion are of the most insignificant and incomplete character; and in the event of a war, a single large-sized frigate might sail direct into the river—by a couple of broadsides silence the paltry batteries—and then demolish the town, or levy what contribution it thought fit upon the inhabitants. Such a contingency is anything but creditable to England; but indeed, nothing less than a war is likely to cause this matter to be attended to. In fact, the defences of our colonies generally are in the most ruinous and inefficient state, and incapable of resisting even an inconsiderable enemy.

Van Dieman's Land is divided into different districts, over each of which a police magistrate, paid by Government, presides, assisted by various unpaid gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace. These districts are Hobart Town and the surrounding country; Launceston, the second town in size and population, and its vicinity including an area of 4,000 square miles on the northern side of the island; and Richmond, New Norfolk, Clyde, Oatlands, Campbell-town, Norfolk Plains, and Oyster Bay, situated in various parts of the island.

Launceston, on the Tamar, lies about forty-seven miles from the sea, into which the river empties itself, near George Town, off which vessels of very large tonnage have to lie and discharge their cargo. The river is navigable, as far as Launceston, for vessels of 350 tons burthen, but by a small expenditure, the bed of the stream might be sunk, so as to admit ships of any tonnage. The chief part of the vessels trading up the river are

coasters, between the island and the neighbouring colonies, under 150 tons burthen. The trade between Launceston and Port Phillip is considerable, the former exporting timber, grain, and agricultural produce, its imports being chiefly live stock. The average passage across Bass's Straits, which divides Van Dieman's Land from Australia Felix, is from two to three days, but in particular cases is much longer; but an iron steamer performs it under thirty hours from George Town to Melbourne.

Launceston is built upon both sides of the River Tamar, and contains 3,500 inhabitants. Its population has rather decreased within the last eight years, for numbers have availed themselves of their vicinity to Australia Felix, to transfer themselves, their families and property to that favoured and fertile land.

The streets are wide and regular, containing many well-built private houses, shops and stores: there are several places of worship, particularly a large and handsome edifice belonging to the Established Church. The public buildings are—as at Hobart Town—numerous and substantial, consisting of a gaol, barracks, court-house, post-office, house of correction, and a Government House, where the Commandant of the district resides. Owing to the fertility of the banks of the Tamar and its internal situation, the greater portion of the agricultural produce of Van Dieman's Land is exported from Launceston, where wheat is always from six-pence to nine-pence per bushel cheaper than at the capital.

Port Arthur, the penal settlement of Van Dieman's Land, whither the worst description of convicts are sent

is situated on the southern extreme of Tasman's Peninsula, which forms the eastern side of Storm Bay, near the entrance of the River Derwent.

Tasman's Peninsula is united to the mainland by a very narrow neck of land, which is guarded by sentries, so as to cut off every chance of escape from the convicts confined there.

Port Arthur is an excellent harbour, the entrance being nearly a mile in width; within, it expands into a sheet of water of considerable extent. The entrance is by no means dangerous, the promontories on either side being bold and bluff. No free persons, except such as are in the employ of the Government, are permitted to reside at Port Arthur; and the punishment inflicted on the prisoners is much more severe than elsewhere, if Norfolk Island be excepted; but at present it is nothing compared to what it was six years ago, when numerous convicts murdered their fellow-prisoners, that they might be brought to Hobart Town, tried, and executed; so infinitely did they prefer death to their fate at a penal settlement. The prisoners' barracks are extensive, but very strong and secure: the country in the vicinity is thickly timbered with forests of the finest wood, suitable for ship-building, and indeed adapted for all purposes to which hard wood is applicable. The general number of convicts, under punishment at Port Arthur, is twelve hundred, and few indeed of these but are offenders of the worst kind, whose feelings are blunted—dead in fact—to every feeling of human nature, but such as dictates vice—vice unequalled for its intensity and degrading character—reducing man to a level with the brute.

The waste Crown Lands of Van Dieman's Land, are administered under the general Acts of Parliament for Australian waste lands. Up to 1834, the system of granting lands was general in the island; but, as in New South Wales, from that time the Crown only alienated land when purchased. The upset price, originally fixed at five shillings, was first raised to twelve shillings per acre, and ultimately to one pound, which is the present price. All lands are disposed of by auction, as in New South Wales, the highest bidder becoming the purchaser. From 1834 to 1836, the produce of the Crown Lands passed into the military or commissariat chest; but from the latter time to the year 1847, they have been paid over to the general revenue of the colony. Within the last twelve months they have been, by direction of the late Secretary of State, again withdrawn from the general revenue of the colony. The following petition to Parliament of the inhabitants of Van Dieman's Land, numerously signed in the colony in the early part of 1847, will fully explain the present position of the Land Fund of this colony.

" The Petition of the undersigned landholders, merchants, and other free inhabitants of the Island of Van Dieman's Land

" Sheweth,

" 1. That prior to the year 1834, the *land revenues* arising from the sale of waste lands of the colony of Van Dieman's Land had been of small amount; but that in consequence of the abolition of the free grant system, and

other circumstances, from the year 1834 to 1843 inclusive, they amounted on an average, to upwards of £27,000 per annum. That in 1844, however, this fund had nearly ceased, and that it is now producing comparatively but a small amount.

"2. That, in the year 1836, the land fund, previously paid into the military chest, was transferred to the colonial chest, and that His Majesty's Government appear to have regarded this transfer as an equivalent for imposing upon the colonists the charge for the police and gaols, rendered necessary by the presence of British convicts.

"3. That, in a letter addressed by James Stephen, Esq., Under Secretary of State in the Colonial Department, to C. B. Trevelyan, Esq., one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, dated the 26th November, 1845, and published by order of your Honourable House, the following passage is given, as showing the result of the arrangement thus imposed upon the colonists:—'The effect, therefore, has been that in the last ten years, the colonists had become liable to a charge far exceeding that which had been contemplated when the arrangement of 1834 was made, and had been deprived of nearly all the resources for sustaining that charge on which, in 1834, they had relied.'

"4. That, in the view thus taken by the Colonial Department, of an arrangement in which the colonists had no voice, though obviously admitting the hardship imposed upon them—it is humbly conceived that the full justice of the case is not recognized; it appearing to your petitioners that the land revenue of the colony is properly a *colonial resource*, and such as cannot fairly be placed

against *an expenditure mainly incurred by the colonists for home purposes*, like that for police and gaols.

5. That, in the same communication from Mr. Under Secretary Stephen to the Treasury, it is stated that the conversion of this colony and Norfolk Island into the receptacles for convicts under sentence of transportation, has had an effect "doubly injurious to the free colonists"; it has both rendered the wild land unsaleable, by destroying the settlement of capitalists there, and it has enhanced, from year to year, the expense of gaols and police, until it has arisen to the annual sum of £36,737 charged upon a revenue, the whole of which amounted to £116,664."

6. That, these circumstances appeared to Lord Stanley, to demonstrate the injustice of "holding the colonists to the arrangement of 1834," his Lordship observing, through Mr. Stephen, in the letter above referred to, "that, for the single charge of gaols and police, a burthen is sustained exceeding a capitation tax of twenty shillings per annum on every free colonist in the island; a charge unexampled, he believed, in any other society living under a constitutional government."

7. That, under all the circumstances of the case, Lord Stanley recommended to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, that for the future, the sum of £24,000 a year (two thirds of the then estimated annual cost of the police and gaols) should henceforth be defrayed out of the British Treasury; but, at the same time, his Lordship recommended that the "Land Fund" should be withdrawn from the colonial revenues; and their Lordships agreed to such recommendations.

8. That, however, in the reply directed by the Lords

of the Treasury to be sent to the said communication, such reply being dated the 2nd of February, 1846, and also printed by order of your honourable house, the present financial difficulties of the local government of this colony are attributed, not to the large expenditure on account of police and gaols, but to "laxity of system and profuse expenditure," and to "the apparently habitual disregard, on the part of the executive government, of any necessity for adhering to the authorized appropriations for the public service."

9. That, the colonists are not answerable for this profuse expenditure, which they have had no means of controlling, being wholly unrepresented in the colonial legislature, while the officers of the colonial executive are sent out from England by her Majesty's Government; but that under no circumstances can they conceive it just, that the large police and gaol expenditure, rendered necessary by the presence of so great a number of convicted offenders, should be made a charge upon them.

10. That the relief about to be afforded in this respect, by the annual payment from British funds of £24,000 a year, they humbly submit to be justly their due, and that the future land revenues of the colony should not, as is proposed, be wholly taken away and paid into the commissariat chest, as a compensation to the Government on account of this relief.

11. That the present value of the waste lands of the Crown in this colony must be attributed to the industry and enterprise of the colonists; and they regard it as a great grievance to see the funds arising from their sale diverted from the use to which they are so

beneficially devoted in the adjacent settlements. That the present condition of this colony renders it singularly desirable that these funds should be appropriated to the introduction of free male and female emigrants. That the welfare of the colonists and all the higher interests of humanity, demand the application of every available means towards the improvement of the character of the working classes in this community; and no means can conduce to this end so surely and directly as the promotion of free immigration.

12. That your petitioners submit, that not only are they entitled to the £24,000 a year, which the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury have consented to appropriate towards the gaol and police expenditure for the future; but that they are equally entitled to arrears of a similarly proportionate sum for every year, since the year 1836, up to the present time.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that such arrears may be recognized as due from the British Treasury to the colonial revenue; that the total sum so accruing may be expended in the introducing of free emigrants, especially females; and that the "Land Fund" of the colony, arising from the sale or rental of the waste lands, after paying expenses of survey, may be appropriated to the same purpose:—&c., &c.

(Then follow the signatures of all classes of free inhabitants.)

It certainly is rather hard to saddle the few thousand free inhabitants of Van Dieman's Land with the entire cost of the gaols and police of the island, which establish-

ments are almost exclusively rendered necessary by the convicts imported from Great Britain and Ireland; or, on the other hand, deprive them of the only fund, by means of which they might introduce free immigrants, and so neutralize the demoralizing effect of the felonry cast upon their shores. All the other Australian colonies have the land fund, arising from the sale of their waste lands, set aside for the purpose of promoting emigration; but because this island cannot support the expense of keeping in order thousands of British convicts, she is to be deprived of all benefit accruing from those waste lands, which might have remained unknown and unpeopled to this day, had it not been for the enterprise and perseverance of the colonists and their parents.

Philanthropic feelings induced the establishment, at a great additional expense, of a "Probation System," but a want of foresight or consideration on the part of the British Government, caused the adoption of a step which must in a great measure defeat the main object. The discouragement of respectable immigrants virtually abandons the island, if the truth was known, to a mass of convicts, whose intimacy of association must of necessity still further tend to demoralize and corrupt them.

For years to come, the revenue arising from the Crown Lands of this colony cannot be expected to amount to any considerable sum, as the pasture lands would never yield sufficiently to render their purchase advisable; and much of the soil suitable for agriculture is so thickly timbered, that the expense of clearing it would be such as to make the buyer but a sorry return for his capital. Indeed, three parts of the farms of Van

Dieman's Land, have cost from time to time in improvements on them, very much more than they would now bring if exposed for sale; and yet, when they were cleared and formed, labour was to be had at the mere cost of keeping a convict, and the produce markets were extremely high. Labour must indeed be cheap, to enable the Van Dieman's Land farmer to buy waste lands, clear them, and then grow wheat at 3*s.* 3*d.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* per bushel. On the old farms, this price now merely pays the cultivation; but if the Commissariat Expenditure was withdrawn from the island, the price would fall considerably. Few persons will, under such circumstances, purchase waste Crown Lands, which would cost perhaps ten pounds per acre to clear, when they can, on the other side of Bass's Straits, in Australia Felix, at once purchase countless acres of rich soil ready for the plough, and with a better home market.

The difference in the price of labour in the two colonies hardly enters into the account, for it would be more than balanced by the advantages of soil. It is greatly feared by many of the Van Dieman's Land colonists, that if transportation thither be discontinued, the whole island will become one succession of sheep walks for the growth of wool; such, however, would be found not to be the result, if a scheme of emigration to the colony were carried out to the extent of largely outnumbering the convicts, who form such a bar to its advancement. The natural advantages of the island, sedulously developed by a free population, would soon become apparent; and the soil tilled by small farmers, would yield a better return than under the reluctant, and consequently intermitting labour of the convict.

There is, at this moment, in the hands of private individuals in Van Dieman's Land, cleared land sufficient to grow corn for the white population of all the Australian colonies; but the soil, under the probation system, is either totally neglected or only half tilled. Now that Great Britain has opened her ports, a market is not wanting, in which a fair price for grain may be realized. Four shillings per bushel for wheat would amply remunerate the Van Dieman's Land farmer, even if wages were as high as £25 per annum. In the year 1846-7, South Australia, her current price of wheat being about four shillings, exported three hundred thousand bushels; and yet at the time, an agricultural labourer was in receipt of from £25 to £30 per annum, exclusive of rations. But although at present Van Dieman's Land is chiefly an agricultural colony, yet it has many other main elements of wealth and prosperity; for instance, its minerals. First in importance among them, must be classed coal. From its central position relatively to the other Australian colonies, coal at this island must materially promote steam navigation among them, and also with Europe, and make Van Dieman's Land an important depôt in those seas.

As yet coal has not been extensively worked in the island; but it exists in great plenty in many parts, and of a quality rather better than that of New South Wales. In the immediate vicinity of Storm Bay, and the River Derwent, and at D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, coal may be obtained in abundance; but as wood is so extremely cheap, it has not yet attracted much attention from the people of Hobart Town. In the interior, indications of

this valuable mineral have been also found in many places. Iron ore is general all over the island, and is of very superior quality; samples conveyed to England having been declared to equal the best kinds of Staffordshire. With the advantage of a plentiful supply of coal, there is no doubt iron will become, at no distant day, a chief element in the wealth of Van Dieman's Land.

Copper, manganese, and lead, have been met with in different parts of the island; but, as with iron, they as yet remain unworked. It may be asked, how it is that the great success in mining operations of the South Australian colonists, has not induced the developement of the mineral wealth of Van Dieman's Land? When we remember that the chief men of business and capital are being driven from the island by the operation of the probation system, we supply the answer.

During 1846, a proposition emanated from the mine-owners of South Australia, which had for its object the obtaining either a constant and cheap supply of coal from Van Dieman's Land for the purpose of smelting copper ore; or, if it could be done cheaper, the exportation of the ore to the island for the same purpose.

This proposition was made with the view of obviating the necessity of shipping the ore to Swansea in Wales, at the great expense incurred at present; but such was the want of energy and enterprise amongst the Van Dieman's Land mine-owners, that the proposition met with no encouragement.

Marble and a good description of limestone exist in abundance in some districts of the colony; indeed, the substratum of many sections of the country is limestone.

The timber of Van Dieman's Land is remarkably abundant, and of such a quality as cannot be surpassed. The island has already carried on a considerable trade with the neighbouring colonies in timber for building purposes; but of late this branch of commerce has fallen away, although certainly not owing to the failure of the supply.

The Eucalyptus is the most general tree to be met with, but there are many kinds of it, some of enormous dimensions, and all more or less suitable for house purposes and ship-building. The wood of the Eucalyptus, or gum, is in all cases hard and of great consistency; equal, indeed, in some respects, to teak wood. The next tree best known and most used in the island, is the stringy bark. It chiefly grows on barren stony ranges, or places of little fertility, and rises to an immense height, the bole, before the branches divide it, often measuring ninety feet in length, and from three to six feet in diameter. The bark is dry, stringy, soft and thick, peeling off in large sheets with little trouble; it is much used in roofing temporary dwellings. The wood itself is hard, of a clean long grain, and splits clear and with facility. It is most valuable for fencing-in land, and splitting up into shingles for roofing. Light wood, cedar, mimosa, the oak, sassafras, and many other kinds of timber—some valuable, particularly from their beauty for cabinet purposes—are plentiful. The pencil cedar exists in abundance in some districts, and forms an article of export.

The interior of the vast forests of this island, particularly towards the western shores, is as yet but little known; their size, and the immensity of the timber, being all that has been ascertained. The vicinity of many of these forests

to shipping ports, will, no doubt, ultimately be of much benefit to the inhabitants, who at present only resort to them to procure material for building numerous small craft, for the coasting trade with the neighbouring colonies. The timber is almost exclusively hard wood, and the trees are evergreens. When the increasing population of the Australian colonies require a large supply of timber, this island can furnish them with an inexhaustible quantity, which will be not only a source of wealth, but also a means of clearing fertile lands, which otherwise must lie waste.

The indigenous animals of this island, in a measure resemble many of those found upon the mainland of New Holland. The kangaroo is the largest and most remarkable:—as in New South Wales, there are several species. Opossums, squirrels, bandicoots, and kangaroo rats are also numerous. There are many specimens of the native cat; some beautiful and extremely diminutive creatures, with sharp snouts and sparkling eyes, the body being jet black, dotted over with milk white spots.

The platypus—seldom met with in other parts of Australia—is general here. It is a description of beaver, and chiefly lives in the water, but breeds on shore and subsists on fish, insects and the tender shoots of shrubs and trees.

A species of animal, between a cat and a dog, which is most fatal to the sheep and calves of the inhabitants, exists here; it is called by them "the devil," an appropriate name, indicative of its effects on their property. It does not exceed in bulk an average sized dog, but is somewhat larger, with short legs, on which it creeps along with most stealthy caution. If it obtains access to a fold at night, it usually bites and mangles a number of the flock, being even

more destructive in this respect than the native dog, which nearly resembles that of New South Wales.

Another intruder on the Van Dieman's Land farmer, is the hyena opossum, which is of great length, measuring, when full grown, from the snout to the tail, about five feet. The colour of its fur is grey on the nether parts, the back being striped black and white; the dressed skins of these animals, when joined together, form an excellent rug, impenetrable alike to cold and wet.

The shores of Van Dieman's Land are the resort, at certain seasons, of the whale, which proceeds thither for the purpose of calving in the numerous bays with which the island is indented. The whale is of the black species; and at the various bays there are whaling establishments belonging to the merchants of Hobart Town or Launceston. The season only lasts about four months, during which, the men employed in the fishery are constantly on the watch for any whale that may present itself in the offing. The moment the spout of one is descerned, the whale-boats put off in pursuit—but always in company—in order to be at hand to afford assistance if the whale strikes or capsizes a boat, which is often the case. The chase is frequently long and dangerous; the whale, in some instances, making off from the land when struck: when this is the case, the boats are often taken many miles out to sea, and then it becomes a matter of time and labour to tow the carcase in-shore, after the mighty monster has been conquered.

The carcase of the whale is usually stranded at high water, when the blubber is cut off. The oil is then tried out on the spot, and when a sufficient quantity is collected,

or the season is ended, a small craft comes round from one of the principal ports for it.

In some cases, the profits of these whaling establishments are considerable. The men employed are paid by "the lay," or more plainly speaking, by shares of the oil taken; the proprietor of the station finding boats, gear, utensils, and provisions: the oil is always taken by him at a certain price, agreed upon before the season commences. One station seldom has less than three boats, each of which requires not less than seven hands: many carry eight, the latter being the usual number among South Seamen. The harpooner, or headsman, and steersman, are always entitled to a much larger share than the rest of the crew, who are merely required to pull at their oars, under direction. A good headsman not unfrequently earns in a season £150; but the employment whilst it lasts is severe, and attended with considerable danger.

The number and extent of these fisheries, have of late years, like every thing else in this island, decreased; they are not carried on with the same enterprise and energy as formerly, although it is considered that the whales visit the coast in as large numbers as at any previous period. Owing to this want of spirit, many of the best headsmen of the island have left it and proceeded to Sydney, where they have engaged themselves in the sea-going whale vessels of that port.

There are several whaling vessels also belonging to Hobart Town and Launceston merchants; but in these there has likewise been a falling off.

The quantity of oil and whalebone exported from

Hobart Town alone, in the year 1834, exceeded £53,700 in value, whilst in 1846 it did not amount to £45,000.

The sea-going whale trade, more especially in the Pacific, is yearly passing more and more out of the hands of England into those of the Americans and French; more especially the former, whose craft now swarm in every bay on the north-west coast of America, around the shores of Japan and amidst the thousand islands of the Pacific. This being the case, exertion should be made by the British Government to foster and extend this branch of trade among the Australian colonies, whose natural position is so advantageous for whaling. The shore as well as the sea fisheries should be promoted, as they are, like the others, a fine school for seamen and for such of the native youths, of white parents, as display a taste and desire for a seafaring life.

Hobart Town undoubtedly might be made the nucleus of a flourishing and extensive whaling trade; the splendid estuary of the Derwent presents a harbour unsurpassed, and of easy entrance, and all the necessary provisions could be procured there much cheaper than in Great Britain, and the gear and other stores at a small advance on home prices.

Ships would not be compelled to remain, as they do now, three and four years absent from their port; the distance from the fishing-grounds being inconsiderable, they could at least annually return to port, the time consumed by such a course being small. All London whalers, and indeed English vessels from any of the home ports, are equipped for a voyage of at least three years,

which if unsuccessful, is often extended to an extra year. During a whaling voyage, in order to preserve the health of the crews, vessels call at the various islands of the Pacific for fresh provisions, and thus become liable to frequent desertion amongst their hands. Sailors dislike extremely long voyages, and if the cruise is not successful, the postponement of the completion of their engagement, and the consciousness of having little money to take when the voyage is over—for most whalers are paid by "lay" or shares—act as positive inducements to seamen to leave their ships. Moreover, the beauty of the Pacific Islands, the ease with which life is supported there, and the loose and seducing manners of the Aboriginal women all tend to weaken the fidelity of a crew.

Few vessels return to England, after a South Sea whaling voyage, with one third or even one fourth of the same crew they took out with them. These desertions are always the cause of embarrassment, often of severe loss and the total failure of a voyage. A ship cannot carry on her operations without a proper number of seamen accustomed to whaling; but they have in some cases to take their chance with natives and men of every kind and condition, whom they pick up at one port or other, to replace those they have lost. Amongst the South Sea Islands and the Pacific, every description of white men is to be met with, whose profession is on the sea; the escaped convict is also common, and even the wretch from the penal settlements, who has braved the dangers of the ocean for weeks in a frail open boat. Some are domiciled and have lived for years amongst the Aborigines, whilst others

only leave a ship for a "spree," and engage in the next that presents itself.

Desertion, and consequent failure of a whaling voyage, would be in a great measure obviated by ships being fitted out from the Australian ports, into which they could return annually; if only to remain a short time, in case of not having been successful in their trip. The Australian youth are generally attached to a sea life, and numbers are at present engaged as headmen and boat-steerers in the vessels belonging to Sydney. An annual return to their native land and a run for a short time on shore, would be quite sufficient to prevent desertion amongst the islands, if the treatment on board were good. There would be another preventive against the desertion of this class, in case they left their vessel, and afterwards returned to Sydney, the parties connected with the fitting out of the ship would be on the spot to punish them, by causing them to be brought before a magistrate and imprisoned.

In whatever light the whaling trade of these colonies is viewed, it only becomes more apparent that it should be fostered, promoted and protected by every means in the power of the British Government.

CHAPTER III.

PENAL QUESTION—STATISTICS OF THE CONVICT POPULATION OF VAN DIEMAN'S LAND—PROBATION SYSTEM—CIRCULAR OF THE GOVERNOR AS TO WHETHER IT BE ADVISABLE THAT TRANSPORTATION SHOULD CEASE—OPINIONS OF THE COLONISTS—GREAT MEETING AT HOBART TOWN—THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

THERE is one question in connection with Van Dieman's Land of vital importance to Great Britain, and peculiarly interesting to all classes of the community. Since 1839, transportation to New South Wales and its dependencies has totally ceased; and all the convicts deported have been forwarded to this island; which is accordingly intimately connected with penal discipline and the punishment of crime in Great Britain.

The progressing civilization of mankind has had the effect, of late years, of attracting much attention to prison discipline, and the general punishment of offenders; and various experiments, of a mild character, have been tried in the hope of having a beneficial and reformatory effect on the character of these erring children of humanity, whom it has been necessary to remove from their fatherland.

Previous to 1839, in New South Wales, as well as in Van Dieman's Land, it was usual, in order to lighten the burden of the Executive and assist the free population, to assign convicts to such as applied for them; but the cruelty of some masters—the convict being subject to their every whim and fancy, and punishable by the lash in case of disobedience—ultimately led to the abolition of the system; and in Van Dieman's Land, then become the sole receptacle of Britain's convicts, another course with regard to them was adopted.

This was a system of probation, under which the punishment of the convicts gradually diminishes, until freedom is the result of good conduct. By the Government, this course was divided into six parts, viz.—

1st. Subjecting the convict to a preliminary seclusion, with a view, not only to punishment, but to his acquiring the knowledge and habits which might qualify him for the discharge of the duties of his penal state.

2nd. Transition through various stages of punishment of gradually decreasing severity.

3rd. Dependance of the degree of transition in each case on the meritorious or inoffensive behaviour of the convict.

4th. Further reward of signally good conduct, by such a relaxation of the convict's penal discipline as might be compatible with his continuance in it, and by the more ready admission of his claims to pardon; the rule being reversed in cases of misconduct.

5th. Facility for early adjudication on a convict's claims, whether to indulgence or a pardon, by a journal or record, punctually kept, of his course and habits of

life, in the form of a numerical account; or, more plainly speaking, by debiting him with so many marks for bad, and crediting him with so many for good conduct.

6th. The subjecting every convict, from the commencement to the close of his probationary career, to a systematic course of religious, moral, and industrial education.

Before entering into an account of the Probation System and its results, it maybe as well to remark, that when probation was adopted, assignment not only ceased, but all convicts already assigned, were withdrawn and subjected to the new plan of proceeding. The system has now been in force for several years, and the result not meeting with the approbation of a large body of the Van Dieman's Land community, they loudly protested against its continuance. They asserted, not only that it was a failure, considered as a means of the reformation of the convict, but that it had the effect of corrupting the entire community, from the privilege the convict population possessed of mixing with the free, and the mildness of the restraint exercised over them.

The Home Government also has been anything but satisfied with the working of the Probation System. No doubt the principle on which it was founded was much to be commended; but then what appears faultless in theory, is often found impracticable in its execution. The following shows the number and condition of the convict population in Van Dieman's Land on the 1st. of April, 1847.

Total number of convicts landed in Van Dieman's Land

or its dependencies between the 1st of January 1831, and the 31st of March, 1847, 43,343, being

Males . . .	36,818
Females . . .	6,525

The number undergoing sentence in April 1847, was 30,846, viz.,

Males . . .	26,268
Females . . .	4,578

The males include 1,815 at that period in Norfolk Island, but likely soon to be removed from thence to Van Dieman's Land.

It was estimated that all the female convicts, during the course of the Probation System, would become pass-holders previous to October 1847, and as such, capable of employing their labour, during good conduct, for their own benefit.

The number of ticket-of-leave-holders in April 1847, was, males 7,013, females 1,493; of pass-holders in service at the same period, males 9,156, females 1,887; and of pass-holders awaiting hire, males 2,004, females 126.

It was calculated in the colony that, under ordinary circumstances, during the Probation System, about 2,000 of the male pass-holders will annually become eligible to hold tickets-of-leave; and that nearly the whole of the present ticket-of-leave holders will obtain conditional pardons, or will have become free by having completed their allotted term of servitude, about the middle of 1851.

The following is the Official Return, showing the number of convicts, male and female, who arrived at

Van Dieman's Land from the 1st of January 1831, to the 31st of March 1847.

		Number of Males	Number of Females
Convicts arrived during the year	1831	1901	340
,, ,,	1832	1252	149
,, ,,	1833	2362	300
,, ,,	1834	1380	151
,, ,,	1835	2194	299
,, ,,	1836	2248	317
,, ,,	1837	1434	113
,, ,,	1838	1940	284
,, ,,	1839	1139	302
,, ,,	1840	1181	184
,, ,,	1841	2682	806
,, ,,	1842	4839	681
,, ,,	1843	3043	684
,, ,,	1844	4322	644
,, ,,	1845	2751	606
,, ,,	1846	1714	355
From January 1st to March 31,	1847	436	320

From the Returns of the Van Dieman's Land Convict Department, it appears that the following was the position of the convicts in Van Dieman's Land, and at Norfolk Island Penal Settlement, on the 1st of March, 1847. This return forcibly elucidates the progress of the Probation System.

MALES.

Number of first convicts under probation in gang . .	3239
,, of second convicts under probation at Port Arthur .	766
,, of first convicts under punishment sentence . .	1408
,, of second convicts under punishment sentence at Port Arthur	304
,, of first convicts at Norfolk Island . . .	1344
,, of second convicts at Norfolk Island . .	471
,, of pass-holders awaiting hire at stations or at the depôts	2004

Number of pass-holders in private service . . .	9156
,, of ticket-of-leave holders	7013
,, in gaols	139
,, in hospitals and at invalid party, New Norfolk Plains	424
Total number of males . . .	26,268

FEMALES.

Number under probation on board the Anson . .	360
,, under punishment sentence	605
,, at depôt awaiting hire	126
,, who holds tickets-of-leave	1493
,, of pass-holders in private service . . .	1887
,, in gaols	7
,, in hospitals	109
	4,587

In the Hobart Town Government Gazette, May 4th, 1847, the following returns appear.

CONVICT DEPARTMENT.

Comptroller-General's Office, 3rd May, 1847.

The Lieutenant-Governor has directed the following returns, in reference to the convict population, to be published for general information, in addition to those published previously.

(Signed) J. S. HAMPTON,
COMPTROLLER-GENERAL.

No. 1.

Return showing the supply of pass-holders' labour, furnished by the Convict Department during the years

1845 and 1846; the surplus labour on the hands of the Government at the expiration of each year; and the amount absorbed during each year.

1845.

Pass-holders on the hands of the Government on the 1st of January, 1845, awaiting service . . .	2100
Pass-holders emerged from probation gangs during the year	4956
Total available for (private) service in the year 1845 . .	7056
Surplus on the hands of the Government, 31st of Dec., 1845	3268
Total number absorbed in 1845	3788

1846.

Pass-holders on the hands of the Government on the 1st of January, 1846, available for service . . .	3268
Pass-holders emerged from gang during 1846 . .	3608
Total available for (private) service in the year 1846 .	6876
Surplus on the hands of the Government on the 31st of December, 1846	2004
Total number absorbed in 1846	4872

No. 2.

Return showing the supply of pass-holder labour that will be available, under *ordinary circumstances*, during the years 1847, 1848, and 1849, commencing 1st of January, 1847.

1847.

Pass-holders awaiting service on the 1st of January . .	2025
Pass-holders who will emerge from gang . . .	2614
Total available for (private) service in the year 1847 . .	4639

1848.

Pass-holders who will emerge from gang . . .	834

1849.

Pass-holders who will emerge from gang . . .	561

Estimated expenditure of the Convict Service of Van Dieman's Land for the year 1847—8.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES.

	£	s.	d.
Comptroller-General's department . . .	6,069	11	0
Probation stations and hiring depôts . .	15,857	6	0
Male prisoners' establishment . . .	3,386	1	0
Female probation establishment . . .	2,395	10	0
Female hiring depôts	293	4	0
„ factories and houses of correction . .	1,425	4	6
Infant Asylum	267	16	0
Queen's Orphan Schools	1,756	12	0
Visiting magistrates	2,258	17	0
Medical department	9,178	5	6
Marine department	3,044	1	0
Penal settlement, Port Arthur . . .	6,786	0	0
Ditto, Macquarie Harbour . .	789	16	6
Establishment for Religious Instruction . .	6,455	9	6
Retired allowances	359	0	0
Ordnance services	1,275	6	0

Penal settlement, Norfolk Island	7,847	14	0
Miscellaneous	699	13	0
Total	£70,145	6	0

CONTINGENCIES.

	£	s.	d.
Comptroller-General's department	810	0	0
Female factories and houses of correction	36	12	0
Infant Asylum	150	0	0
Medical department	460	0	0
Ordnance services	6,500	0	0
Miscellaneous	33,050	0	0
Rations of provisions	78,637	17	4
Total contingencies	119,644	9	4
Total salaries and money allowances	70,145	6	0
Grand total	£189,789	15	4

The extraordinary disproportion of the sexes in these returns will be at once remarked,—26,268 males to 4,578 females, or about one female to every six males. The position of the free population is not such as to neutralize the effect of this disproportion; the free males very much surpass in number the free females, and their joint number little exceeds that of the prison population. The writer has no opportunity of stating the relative numbers, as no census of the free population of Van Dieman's Land has been taken for the last seven years. According to the last census, the free inhabitants amounted to 37,088; but it is admitted on all hands that they have been decreased by emigration, since that date, and that now they very little, if at all, outnumber the convicts. In conse-

quence of the large supply of probation labour, and its comparative cheapness, as to the *number employed*, if not to the work they execute, free labour is very scarce in the island, the neighbouring colonies attracting all such as are not retained by ties of property, position, or duty.

The pass-holder is in a lower stage of probation than the ticket-of-leave-holder. The former is retained in a gang, or depôt, until he is employed; whereas, the latter is at liberty to go whither he pleases within a certain district; but the pass-holder has the advantage, in the event of not being employed, of being supported by the Executive until he is so; whereas, the ticket-of-leave-holder is left to shift for himself as he best can, being, however, under surveillance, that he may not leave the island. The average wages of the pass-holder are £9 per annum, of the ticket-of-leave-holder £12, for the same period. Of course, there are many of the latter class maimed, blind, or otherwise helpless, who find it impossible to procure employment; yet, when the period of their *privilege* arrives, they are thrown on their own hands to make out a living by begging, or stealing, if all other means fail. Scores of such infest Hobart Town, who are not permitted to go out of the colony until they obtain their perfect freedom; whereas, if permission were accorded to them, such is the want of labour in Australia Felix and New South Wales, that they might in all probability make themselves useful there, and be able to support themselves honestly as shepherds, instead of being, as they now are, an incubus. The female convicts, on their first arrival in the colony, are placed in a receiving ship (the 'Anson') in the Derwent, near Hobart Town, where they remain in probation, until

their conduct appears to warrant their being transferred to service. The usual term of probation in the 'Anson' is six months, during which time the female is taught washing, sewing, straw-bonnet making, and other like employments that may be of benefit to her in after-life. The well-conducted probationer, at the end of six months, is eligible for hiring. If any are refractory whilst in this state, they are sent for punishment to the female factory at the Cascades, from whence, as soon as the term of punishment is completed, they are returned to the 'Anson,' to finish their probation. When once hired from the 'Anson,' they return no more to it; if they leave their situations, when again eligible for hiring, they are transferred to a depôt, at a place called the Brickfields, where they remain comparatively idle, until once more hired. The general wages for these women are £9 per annum. On hiring, an agreement is drawn up between master and servant, under the supervision of the authorities, which binds the employer to give ten days' notice of his intention to dissolve the agreement, or to pay ten days' wages. If the servant commits a crime, a warning, of course, is not necessary; as then the law, if appealed to, removes her at once. When the female convict leaves the 'Anson' for service, she is in the position of a pass-holder, becoming entitled to a ticket-of-leave under the gradual operation of the Probation System. Whilst a pass-holder, the Executive supports her, if out of employment; and if she have children, provides for them in the Orphan House; but once she obtains her ticket, her children are withdrawn from the Orphan House, and she is completely thrown on

her own resources, but she is not permitted to leave the country.

Whilst in private service, the pass-holding woman is entitled to leave of absence every Sunday, in order to afford her, if she thinks fit, an opportunity of attending divine service; once a month she is also allowed a day's leave, for the purpose of purchasing such articles as she may require. In case of sickness, the master is obliged to support his servant, and provide her with medical attendance, or pay two shillings a day at the hospital for her. These rules extend to the males, who, as well as the females, are not required, when in service, to wear any distinctive dress, such as they do in Government barracks.

The male convict, before becoming a pass-holder, has, in all cases, to undergo a period of probation, which is either carried out at Norfolk Island, Port Arthur, or in road gangs throughout Van Dieman's Land. There are three classes of pass-holders; the last only are entitled to receive the *full amount* of the wages for which they are hired; from being third class pass-holders, the next step is to the possession of a ticket-of-leave, when they become their own masters, with this exception, that they are not permitted to leave the island.

A proportion of the wages of the first and second classes of pass-holders, male and female, is paid over to the Government to defray, in part, the expense of maintaining them when out of employment. Since the suppression of the assignment system, flogging has been abolished, and the male convicts are punished either by solitary confinement, working on the roads, or transportation to the penal

settlements of Norfolk Island and Port Arthur, where the treatment is much more severe than elsewhere. In case of bad conduct, or of positive crime, the consequent punishment of the offender by a sentence has not the effect of degrading him; after the expiration of the punishment, he is reinstated in precisely the same position he previously occupied. This, of course, renders all minor punishments comparatively light to the offender.

No pass-holder of any class, male or female, can be compelled to accept service, and sign an agreement for more than one month, and for less than £9 per annum wages.

The carrying out of this system must, of course, largely depend upon the officers of the Executive to whom it is intrusted; and the hypocrisy, or pretended penitence of the convict, or the favouritism of the superior, must materially aid in the earlier possession of privileges, and the acquisition of freedom.

In the spring of the year, 1847, Sir William Denison, the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Dieman's Land, addressed a circular to the various Police Magistrates and Ministers of Religion throughout the island, calling for an expression of opinion as to whether it was "desirable that the transportation of convicts to this island (Van Dieman's Land) should cease altogether." This circular set the whole colony in a ferment; public meetings were held, addresses and petitions voted, and committees appointed; which, on the one hand, strenuously urged the discontinuance of transportation, and pointed out the immorality and vice caused by it; and, on the other, as energetically insisted on its continuance, and protested that ruin must follow to

all in the colony, if it were deprived of its only source of labour, the "transportation system." From one end of the island to the other, every free person of means or station engaged himself as an advocate on one or the other side—all considering it as a question which vitally interested them and their children. Yet, although divided in opinion as to the main fact, whether it were "advisable transportation should cease," all were agreed that the "probation system," as a scheme having for its object the reformation of the convict population, had proved an utter failure; and urged a return to the assignment system, or the adoption of a different plan.

The discussion of the question led to much acrimony and personal invectives on both sides; the press threw open its columns to the combatants, in order to afford all an opportunity of giving their opinions. Two of the old established journals adopted the side of the question in favour of transportation, and one or two more were established avowedly to advocate this view of it. Among a population so strangely constituted as that of Van Dieman's Land, it may readily be believed that strange scenes arose out of the public discussion of the transportation question, and instances even occurred of persons of wealth, who were opposed to the continuance of the system, coming forward and avowing that they had been contaminated by collision and association with the convicts.

While one party invoked the aid of the moral feeling and consideration of the Government, to protect themselves and their children from the contamination which they asserted was spread over the length and breadth of the land, producing vice and crime of the most appalling de-

scription; their opponents predicted ruin to the colony, and an inability, in the end, to compete in the grain market with the neighbouring colonies, at the same time ridiculing the pretensions of the anti-transportationists to morality, or virtue. One of the incidents to which human nature is subject, is a gradual diminution of the horror of vice and crime, when day after day they are brought into contact with us. It is, therefore, not surprising in a country where, at least, one-half of the population are convicts, and many of the free have been so, that habit to crime should produce callousness towards it in some; but it may perhaps be a subject of wonder that it could ever excite a desire in others to aid and protect it.

Nothing can more strongly exemplify the generality and extent of demoralisation, than the open and unblushing defence of the convict system that then took place, and the attribution of crime, not to the convict, but to the free colonist; thus actually elevating the criminal above those who had never been convicted by a jury of their countrymen. The following extract is from a Van Dieman's Land journal, the Cornwall Chronicle, of April 29th, 1847; and its extraordinary character must assuredly give the reader a strange notion of a community that would patronise and applaud such sentiments and ideas. It is headed,

"CONTAMINATION AND POLLUTION.

"Those persons who have dared to denominate the colonists for expressing their sentiments in favour of the continuation of transportation, pollutionists, shall render a fearful retribution. We will hold their pretensions up to public scrutiny—lay bare their characters—turn them

inside out, and let the world judge their *qualifications*. From the highest to the meanest of them, they are black sheep. The greater number of them have, by their conduct, entailed the mercantile disgrace on the colony, under which it at present suffers; and they would entitle themselves to the brand of eternal infamy, by selling their country to profit themselves; but a stronger arm than theirs prevails.

"Meantime, we ask the wretched traducers on what data they affix the contamination of the colonists?

"Is it in the number of places of worship erected in various parts of this town? Is it in the multiplicity of preachers and laymen? Is it in the large muster of congregations?

"In this town are twelve places for public worship, affording accommodation for the entire population! In the whole world we defy a similar instance to be found. The population of the town* is about 3,500. The twelve places of public worship will accommodate 3,600, independent of the church at the factory. We repeat, that in all England such an instance is not to be found, of a town comprising a population of 3,500 souls, furnishing accommodation in places of public worship for the whole of them at one sitting. Is this a proof of the contamination of the free population by the convict? Are our scientific societies and valuable institutions a proof of it? Is it a proof of convict contamination that the inhabitants support the Horticultural Gardens—the Infant School—the libraries—the Schools of Industry—the Sunday and day

* Launceston and its suburbs.

schools—the Mechanics' Institute —the Dorcas and Lying-in Society—the Benevolent Society—St. John's Hospital, and various other valuable public institutions? Are these a proof of convict contamination?

"Ask Colonel Bloomfield and the officers of the 11th Regiment, who are strangers amongst us, and gentlemen; —ask those gentlemen if they witnessed, in the ball which they attended on Friday evening last, where 300 persons of both sexes, promiscuously met from all parts of the country — ask them, we say, if they witnessed any symptoms of convict contamination. We are disgusted with the cant raised about convict contamination;—the contamination does not rest with the convict population. If contamination is to be dreaded, *it is from some of the free,* who being radically and naturally impure, have countenanced those only in the community, who are as bad as themselves. The midnight flitter—the runaway murderer and embezzler, and the burglar, have been welcomed in our community, even under assumed names —have been received with open arms and placed in situations of trust, to the disgust of men of honesty and correct feeling; the man who has raised up an ephemeral reputation as a *merchant* on the consignments of the English shipper, and swindled every body who trusted him, has in this town been countenanced and applauded; he has been treated as men of honesty only should be treated—as a gentleman; not as he deserved—as a swindler! But we have no more space at present. In our next number we shall continue the subject, and declare a few truths—unpalatable though they be."

Such is an average sample of many of the productions

of that portion of the press, who advocated the Convicts' Transportation, forgetting in their desire to protect the system, that such articles tend in effect to identify them in principle with the convicts themselves.

It is plainly apparent, that since 1840, the convict system has had the effect of driving thousands of the free population out of the island; in fact, at the present time, as they become free, the greater portion of able-bodied men who have been convicts, leave the colony. So great is the want of labour in Australia Felix, that all such as desire it are provided with free passages from Hobart Town and Launceston, to Port Phillip. As free labour only receives at the utmost fifteen to sixteen pounds a year, it is not likely that any person who can help it will remain, when he can get twice that sum in Port Phillip.

It is sad to see any considerable proportion of a community, so callous to the contamination of large masses of convicts—thousands of whom have passed through the probation gangs of Norfolk Island and Port Arthur—as to advocate the continuance of a system, which must inevitably have the effect of demoralizing their children, if not themselves. There are, however, several advocates for the continuance of transportation to their adopted land, whose characters stand above suspicion; but this only tends to show how much, even in these, habit lessens the horror of associating with the *criminal*.

The writer does not think he can better develope the arguments of this class of persons, than by giving in full, the answer of the Rev. M. Martin, a clergyman of the colony of high character, to the circular of His Excellency the Governor. The letter is addressed to the Secretary of the colony.

Exton, April 30, 1847.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 27th, in which you inclose to me a printed paper purporting to be 'A Series of Questions on the subject of Transportation,' which you are directed, by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to lay before me, with a view to my returning such answers to them as I may be able.

"To the first question: whether I consider it 'desirable that the transportation of convicts to this country should cease altogether,' I answer without any hesitation, that I DO NOT.

"In the observations appended to the above questions by his Excellency, various suggestions are thrown out as to the considerations by which the person, whose opinion is required, should be influenced, in forming his judgment on the subject, and framing his reply to it; but nothing like an intimation is given of any wish on the part of his Excellency, that the grounds on which the judgment has been come to, whether those suggested by his Excellency or others, should be assigned. In fact, it would seem that all that is wanted is a plain answer to the question—yes or no—framed on the considerations suggested by his Excellency. I trust, however, that I shall not be thought presuming, if I take the liberty of detailing my views upon the subject, so far as they influence me in making my reply to the question.

"There are but two reasons, as far as I can see, why it can be considered 'desirable that the transportation of convicts to this country should cease altogether:' either,

first, that we no longer require their services; or, secondly, though we might require their services, that the moral contamination arising from their presence is so great an evil, as to be by no means counterbalanced by those services.

"As to the first point, 'that we do not require the services of convicts,' it might be supposed that little need be said. It appears that, between January 1, 1831, and March 31, 1847, very nearly 36,000 male convicts have been landed on the shores of this island. And yet at this present moment there is 'an actual scarcity of labour.' I say this on personal experience. I am myself at this present time requiring the services of free or ticket-of-leave men, and cannot get them. Every person I converse with on the subject says the same. Whilst the few men who do occasionally offer themselves for hire are demanding advance of wages. It seems, indeed, that there are about 2000 men for hire in the depôts. Why, it may be said, if labourers are wanted, are they not hired? I answer, not because they are not wanted, but because 'they are not worth having.' Every useful man at a hiring depôt, is drawn off as soon as he gets in. Those who remain are such as are either unable or unwilling to work. I entertain not the shadow of a doubt, that if the 2000 men now in the depôts were worth having as useful farm servants, they would every one be engaged within a month. Almost every ship that sails from Van Dieman's Land to the neighbouring colonies carries away some labourers; and how is the deficiency thus caused in the number of our work-people to be made up?

"It is true, a certain number of convicts, now under probation, will periodically become available for hire, and

for a time will fill up the gap; but when that supply ceases, as it must do in a few years, if transportation ceases, we shall be totally at a stand for want of labourers. It perhaps may be said, that when the stigma of this being a convict country is removed, we shall have an ample immigration into it of free persons. I doubt the fact. Why should they come here in such numbers? They do not go to the other colonies in numbers sufficient to supply the demand for labour. If then, into those colonies, to which convicts never have been sent, emigrants do not flock, why should they flock here? What has the stigma of convictism to do with the subject? Nothing. Those who do emigrate from Great Britain to the other colonies rather than to this, do so, for the most part, as I conceive, because labour is in more demand there, and wages are consequently higher there than here.

"A few years ago, when wages did happen to be high in Van Dieman's Land, numbers eagerly flocked into the country from England, and we never heard in those days of any number of persons being deterred from coming because it was a convict colony. So long as the spirit of emigration was in force, as many came here, as have since, under similar circumstances, gone to other colonies. The reason why we had not as many as we wanted, was the same that prevents other colonies now from getting as many as they want, namely, the distance of the country from England, and consequent expense of passage. But if the stigma of convictism tells against us, how comes it that the settlers in the neighbouring colonies hold out every possible inducement to our convicts, as soon as they become free by servitude, or obtain conditional pardons, to

pass over to them? What mean those numerous advertisements of 'free passages,' with occasionally the additional enticing offer of 'provisions on the voyage,' to such as will go, if their presence in a country is so great an evil?

"The fact is, the colonies on the other side of Bass's Straits hardly could have been kept in existence—certainly never could have prospered as they have—but for the assistance they have derived from the labours—certainly of some free persons—but chiefly of the emancipated convicts who have passed over thither. In fact, the convicts have been the making of those colonies, as they were originally the making of this. Nor can I think that we are arrived at that state that we can afford willingly to consent to a concession of the system. Still the demand for labour on the other side of the Straits is made, and is likely to continue, whilst we are little able to spare it; and should transportation cease, the result would be, that we should in a short time be drained of our labour; and finally this colony, and the other colonies, would be on the same footing; that is, equally wanting labour, and equally unable to get it. The idea that an extensive immigration would take place, is a mere chimera: the expense of the voyage not only prevents labourers coming at their own charges, but likewise prevents us from bringing them here to any large and effectual extent.

"Under these circumstances, the consequence would be, that the price of labour would simultaneously rise in all the colonies; and probably to such an extent as almost to paralyse all agricultural operations. The large flock-owners on the extensive pastures of New Holland might not so seriously feel the pressure; but in Van Dieman's Land,

which is essentially the agricultural colony in this part of the world, the result would be most disastrous.

"The price of corn, as it has ranged for the last two or three years, seems likely to be the average standard value of it; at least I see no reason to think it will be higher. At the present price, though low, it has been grown, and can be grown, to a profit; but if the rate of wages be materially advanced, I fear it cannot. At present our export of corn is nearly equal in value, I believe, to that of our wool, and therefore ought to be considered of great importance.

"As far as we are particularly interested in this matter, it should also be well remembered that land applied to cultivation has, in almost every case, to be reclaimed from heavily timbered forests, at great cost; whilst at Port Phillip and in Australia, the mere erection of a fence to keep off cattle, at once gives to our neighbours their land ready for the plough. How, then, with dear labour, can we compete with them?

"As far then as the question of labour goes, I come decidedly to the conclusion, that it is not desirable that convicts should no longer be sent here. It remains to be considered whether 'the moral contamination arising from their presence is so great an evil as to be by no means counterbalanced by their services.

"On this head, I must candidly say that I do not at all entertain the apprehension of moral mischief arising necessarily from their presence in the community. Evils of this sort arise chiefly to a community from the influence of bad example in the higher orders infecting those below them. But I never heard it advanced (till of late in this country)

that the bad morals of the lower ranks infected the higher. We are but where we would be if transportation were put a stop to—that is, in a moral point of view. Suppose the convicts as bad as you please, their example only operates amongst themselves; whilst those above them are in no danger of contamination. Did we ever hear of any persons objecting to hire in London, or any great city, because there were congregated in it a vast number of the most degraded and vicious of the human race? The curse, indeed, of the propinquity of such a class of persons, might at times excite a feeling of horror and disgust, but could hardly give rise to a fear of contamination; nor do I see that any such effect has been produced in this colony. It has always been a convict country. Are the free people in it apparently contaminated by the presence of convicts? It did not seem so to our late Governor, Sir John Franklin, who willingly and openly represented us to the Home Government as a community in every respect as religious and as moral as could anywhere be met with. I have not the means of quoting his exact words; but I believe I have exactly conveyed the sentiment. The truth is, that little or nothing of such a charge against the convictism of the country has been raised till within a late period; that is, since the *Probation System* was adopted. *It is true this system has excited the universal disgust of the whole free population.* Its total inefficiency for the end proposed from it, and its tendency to encourage crime and vice to a most odious degree,—even so as to bring it, if not under the eye, yet to the knowledge of the whole community,—has led them to feel that horror of convictism at large, which should be confined to that particular system of it

which has been exhibited before them, and experimented upon, so fatally and inefficiently, for the last few years.

"To the second question, 'What number of convicts transported to the colony would be adequate to the wants of the country, to keep up a proper supply of labour?' my answer is short, and founded on his Excellency's statement. His Excellency says that, 'should the market for labour remain in its present state, the supply of men's labour will, in all probability, be diminished by about 3,000 men annually for the next two years.' Concurring in the opinion that there will be such an emigration, and considering the present scarcity of labour, I think we should require an introduction, at least, of men to the same amount—viz., 3,000 annually for two years, and in subsequent years as many as may be required to maintain our present numbers. In answering his Excellency's third question, namely, 'what alteration in the regulations respecting the hiring of pass-holders is desirable?' I must confess I approach the subject with much diffidence; as I feel it easier to point out what I think faults in a system, than to suggest satisfactory modes of correcting them. I shall, however, venture respectfully to suggest a few considerations. In the first place, as regards the moral and religious improvement of the convicts, I totally object to the system of congregating them, as at present, in large bodies; where, notwithstanding any good regulations that may be adopted, and any assistance from religious instructors that may be provided, I consider they will be made worse rather than better. Moral evil, like an infectious disease, spreads rapidly. The influence of bad example, of which there must necessarily be much in such

a body of men, will be more effective in drawing the less depraved into greater depths of wickedness, than the casual display of any good qualities of an individual will be to entice a wicked comrade to a better course of conduct: whilst the labours of the most zealous teacher of religion will seldom, if ever, do more than make a number of hypocritical pretenders to religion. And, I believe, those who assume that mark are generally the very worst in the whole mass.

"In my opinion, the first step towards mending the characters of the convicts, is, to begin with making them useful members of the community they are destined to live in. Teach the convict habits of industry. Teach him to earn, and, if possible, to have pleasure in earning his own living. When he has got so far, he will probably see the wisdom of being honest. At all events, if not honest *at heart*, he will put on the garb of honesty, and act on principles of honesty in his outward conduct, and in his dealings and intercourse with his neighbours. If you get him no further, at least you make him harmless, if not what I propose, namely, a useful member of the community; and it is by no means improbable that in many cases a real reformation of life and character may be the result. I suspect many instances might be found, to exemplify my views, from among those who were sent out under the old Assignment System. As far as I have had an opportunity of judging, I do not see the same prospect under the Probation System. I should therefore say decidedly that, on the arrival of the convict in the colony, he should as soon as possible be transferred to the service of the settler; where, as I conceive, there is the best chance of the end I propose being attained.

"As to the method of managing convicts in private service, there are considerable difficulties. There is one point, however, on which I have a very decided opinion. In whatever way, or under whatever circumstances, a convict is placed in the service of a settler, I think he ought on no account to have the power of terminating his service till he obtains his ticket-of-leave. The only ground for claiming a removal from his service, should be, alleged improper treatment on the part of his master, and this charge should of course be substantiated before the proper authorities. The knowledge that he can leave his service, has a necessary tendency to keep the mind of the convict servant in an unsettled state; and prevents his steadily endeavouring to learn his business, acquire a good character, and give satisfaction to his employer.

"I here submit, but with all due deference, that, of late years, the usual indulgence of a ticket-of-leave appears to have been granted almost as a matter of course, and without sufficient reference to character. The same may be said of conditional pardons. A good character from the employer should be considered essential to the obtaining of the indulgence; though the master should be required, if called upon, to show why, in any case, he refuses to give a favourable testimonial.

"As to wages, if it be thought proper that the convict servant should have them paid in money, then I think he ought to have the privilege of spending that money as he pleases;—this however, with some limitation. As to the amount of wages, I should fix no limit, but leave the servant to make his own bargain. As to the time of payment, I would by no means have it monthly, but at the

end of every year. This regulation would act as a salutary check, inasmuch as it would afford an opportunity of mulcting him of his wages, or any portion of them, in any case where, in the opinion of a magistrate, his idleness or negligent and wilful injury of property might render such a course expedient. During the first year, the master should be privileged, and in case of necessity compelled, to provide the servant with clothing, bedding, and other requisites, to be charged for at a reasonable rate, as a set-off against the wages at the end of the year. I have particularly mentioned bedding, because I think that, if the convict receives wages, he should provide his own bedding as free men and ticket-of-leave men do. The plan of providing the convict servant with bedding at the expense of the master, as is at present required, leads to negligent and often wilful destruction of property.

"The same reasoning will apply to medical attendance. The master should have the privilege of charging the money paid to the doctor against the wages. Much abuse is likely to arise from pursuing a contrary course. A man may feign illness, or in some trifling indisposition desire to have medical attendance, which a master is unwilling to refuse, for fear that the illness may be serious; in which case his conduct would be characterised as unkind, if not worse. When a man has to pay his own doctor's bill, he will never incur the liability without real cause. On the other hand, when a convict servant refuses to work on the alleged ground of sickness, but will not seek medical advice, the master ought to have power to call in a medical man, and charge the fee and medicine against the wages. In fine, with the exception of a few trifling regulations of

the kind above-mentioned, and perhaps a few others with respect to discipline that might be recommended, I think that convicts, if they are to receive money-wages, should, when once in service, be treated as ticket-of-leave men are.

"Having now brought my reply to the Questions of his Excellency to a conclusion, I shall only add that, so great has been my dislike to the regulations for hiring probation passholders, I have never, from the time of the establishment of the system to the present day, had a single man of that class on my farming establishment, having effected all my operations with free or ticket-of-leave men. But if a system, conducted on principles such as I have advocated in the latter part of my answer to his Excellency's Questions, were adopted, I should be most glad to avail myself of the opportunity of obtaining labour on such terms.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL MARTIN."

Strange, that a good and pious Minister of the Gospel could be found to advance the proposition that, "Suppose the convicts as bad as you please, their example only operates amongst themselves; whilst those above them are in no danger of contamination!" Certainly, this is strange reasoning, more especially when it is applied to the convicts in Van Dieman's Land. Such, at present, is the position of the labour-market there, that of necessity, the domestic servants, male and female, are almost exclusively pass-holders, or ticket-of-leave holders; to whom is committed the care of children. And so, these being the

children of their masters, they are not exposed to contamination! What must the infant mind first become cognizant of, surrounded by crime and vice, and when it is most accessible to impression? It is not the humble prayer, or the moral duty, the convict will inculcate, nor obedience and submission to the parent; for in bondage, the convict's very spirit and heart rebel against submission and duty. No! the bitter curse, or drunken blasphemy is what most likely will salute the child's ear; or tales of fatherland connected with the career of the relator, disclose the broad path of vice to the hearer, blossomed over with its delusive, but enticing snares. Enter a house occupied by convict servants, or even the lower class of free persons, who have been convicts, in Van Dieman's Land; and around the fire, when the hours of labour are over, nothing is to be heard but anecdotes and tales, all of the same stamp—the criminal exploits of the speaker, and their adventures in the chain-gangs or penal settlements. What can more strongly tend to demoralise and contaminate all around, more especially the young? but so used have many of the inhabitants of this colony become to these things, from daily hearing and seeing what passes, that they have actually lost the due perception of vice, which is, in their minds, almost elevated to comparative virtue. The spirit of morality, if not dead amongst them, at least sleepeth!

Churches, chapels, and meeting houses, all erected with Government aid, and whose ministers are in receipt of a yearly stipend from the Executive, are no true indication of the virtue and morality of a population; nor is even attendance at these to be accounted a sign, for all convicts

are either compelled or expected to frequent on Sunday some place of prayer, the particular one being left to their own choice. Never, in the worst days of the Assignment System, was the extent of vice and crime half so great in Van Dieman's Land as at present; but to open an account of its details, would be to present humanity in such a shape as would far surpass all comprehension of what is understood by the word, crime, in Great Britain.

What pen could describe, or what words portray, the frenzied, maddening excitement of guilt amongst the gangs of Norfolk Island and Port Arthur? Well indeed might a former Chief Justice of New South Wales say, that he would prefer death by fire, or in any shape, to a sentence to Norfolk Island! At the penal settlements, many overseers and persons engaged in the management and control of the convicts fall victims, from time to time, to the ferocity of these people, and are murdered; but detection of the perpetrators of these deeds of blood seldom follows. But not only on those placed over them is the fury of these wretches expended; they tear, crush and mutilate the bodies of their very comrades, and revel in the infliction of additional torture on those around them. And yet, after a term of probation, these demons are removed to the milder probation gangs, and, in process of time, become pass-holders and hired servants amongst the families of Van Dieman's Land, where they inculcate the appalling lessons learned at the penal settlements, to such of their fellow-servants as have had the good fortune to escape these fearful places.

The character of employment in Van Dieman's Land,

and the occupation of the inhabitants, are much more likely to engender and extend vice and crime, than the condition of the convicts formerly in New South Wales. In the latter country, the greater number of convicts who were formerly in private assignment, were employed in shepherding, hut-keeping, or looking after stock. The stations in the interior were far apart, and consequently prevented that extensive association of the convicts with one another: much of their time was spent in solitude; the shepherd following his sheep over hill and plain, and the hut-keeper alone attending to the duties of the station. Reflection not unfrequently was the result of this loneliness, and amendment followed, if a cruel master did not, by the infliction of the lash, brutalize his unfortunate servant and render him insensible to all human feeling. In Van Dieman's Land, pastoral pursuits being less extensive than in New South Wales, and the population much more employed in agriculture, of necessity, numbers of convict servants are drawn together who are likewise in the vicinity of other farms, where more of their fellows are. It seldom happens but that amongst these, there are some Norfolk Islanders or Port Arthur gentlemen, and the lessons of such soon tend to extinguish any ray of right feeling, or virtue, that may have remained in the breasts of their companions.

So shamelessly—so openly indeed—is crime spoken of and gloried in by these wretches, that the author has, in numberless instances, been the unwilling auditor of relations that, were he to detail them, would make the blood run cold. The presence of their masters and superiors, under the existing system, is such a slight

check upon them, that they seldom regard it at all; and if spoken to on the subject, insolence is the certain consequence. Under the Assignment System, insolence and neglect of work were severely punishable, but now they constitute no offence: a master can only return his servant to the Government after a certain term, by giving notice of his intention to dissolve the agreement, and this is attended with so much trouble, and, in many cases, actual loss, by the theft of the servant when about to leave his place, that it is seldom resorted to except in cases of absolute necessity. It is well for Van Dieman's Land, that all her inhabitants are not so sunk in vice, as to be unconscious or regardless of convict contamination.

The following is the petition to the Queen, of a large number of them.

The parents' petition of Van Dieman's Land, against the continuance of transportation to that island, extensively signed for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, by numbers of all classes.

"Sheweth:—

"That, according to the last census, taken by order of the Legislature of Van Dieman's Land, there were 37,088 free inhabitants; of these 12,946 were under fourteen years of age.

"That, according to a recent statement published in the Government Gazette, signed by J. S. Hampton, Comptroller-General, the number of prisoners of the Crown now in Van Dieman's Land, or whose immediate arrival may be expected, amounts to 30,846.

"That, of this large number, the greater part have passed through the corrupting influence of the Probation Gangs, or have been exposed to the awful demoralization known to prevail at Norfolk Island.

"That these persons, as the terms of their probation expire, are transferred to private service and become eligible for every kind of occupation, and are continually and necessarily brought into contact with persons of tender age.

"That in the year 1839, transportation to New South Wales, which colony had previously received the greater proportion of convicts, was altogether discontinued, and Van Dieman's Land from thenceforth became, and has, up to this time, continued the sole receptacle of convicts from all parts of the British empire; so that between the years 1841 and 1847, there have arrived 23,800 prisoners of the Crown, of whom only 4,076 were females.

"That your petitioners are persuaded that no vigilance or careful instruction can be expected to counteract the mischievous and contaminating influence of convict example on the rising generation; that from their earliest infancy they are liable to witness scenes of demoralization, and frequent instances of profligacy, profaneness, and degradation.

"That your petitioners feel that their silent acquiescence in the continuance of transportation would be disgraceful to their character, cruelly unjust to their children, and deserve the detestation of the British nation.

"That, constrained by every obligation of duty and affection, they lay before your Majesty the melancholy condition and prospects of the youthful population, and

they implore the interposition of your authority, to the end that transportation to this island may for ever cease."

Then follow the numerous signatures.

It is to be hoped that this petition will have the desired effect, and that the present system will for ever cease; for one so fraught with evil results, not only to the inhabitants of Van Dieman's Land, but to the convicts themselves in their still further demoralization, could scarcely be framed. And yet, the originators of the system were men eminent for humanity, and for their anxiety to amend and reform the erring children of Britain. The great and strongest argument used by the island advocates for the continuance of transportation, is the injury that will be done to their adopted land, by its being cut off from the source whence was heretofore obtained the chief part of the available labour. They proceed to point out, that Van Dieman's Land, unlike the other Australian colonies, is, in a great measure, an agricultural country, and that a large portion of the exports consists of grain and other like produce. The chief part of these is sent to the neighbouring colonies, in whose markets cheap labour will alone enable them to compete, for soil and climate are there almost as favourable to agriculture as in Van Dieman's Land. The total number of convicts of every class in private employment in the island, consisted in April, 1847, to 19,649 persons: of these, the ticket-of-leave holders were 8,506, who received on an average £12 per annum wages, which, including both sexes, is but half what they would earn in Australia Felix; thus showing a saving to Van Dieman's Land of £12 per head, or in the aggregate £104,072.

The pass-holders in private service, numbering, males

and females, 11,043, only receive on an average £9 per annum, which would leave a difference of £15 each, between these persons and the wages paid in Australia Felix, which collectively would amount to £165,645; thus, the withdrawal of all classes of convicts from private employment, would cause an apparent loss to the settlers of Van Dieman's Land of £269,717; for no free labourer could be expected to remain in the island at a lower rate of wages than is obtainable in the neighbouring colonies, especially when we take into account the many facilities for proceeding thither.

But these figures must not be taken as conclusive; there are many items to be added to the *mere wages* of the convict:—there is his support in hospital, the amount of his peculations which enable him to carouse with his companions, the loss consequent on attending police offices and Government depôts, and many other items, which would not have to be taken into account with free labourers. By those best acquainted with the colony, the sum set down under these heads would make an addition of, at least, £6 per head per annum to the wages of the convict. But then, above all, there is the small amount of labour convict servants perform. In shepherding, stock-keeping, and such occupations, the manual labour is nothing to speak of, so that in these employments the difference between a free servant and convict is not of much importance; but the larger number of the servants of Van Dieman's Land are engaged in agriculture, where manual labour is everything. Conscious of the difference between their wages and those receivable by the hundreds they see monthly leaving for the adjacent colonies, the convict servants will not

perform a fair day's work, or anything like the amount of labour a free man would get through. Then, the habits of indolence they acquire in the Probation Gangs, and the consciousness of being under coercion;—prisoners, if not slaves for the time being—they work with a yoke about them. Thus, when the amount of the prisoners' labour, with the items to be added for theft, &c., are taken into consideration with the wages paid them, they are not, if at all, relatively cheaper than free men, even at £24 per annum. Personal inquiry, and the known conclusions of some of the most extensive settlers in Van Dieman's Land, satisfy the writer on this point, viz.: that although the wages paid to convict servants are apparently low, yet in reality they are as high, in proportion to the work they execute, as that paid to free persons in the neighbouring colonies. But, although convict transportation might cease, it is no necessary consequence that the convicts at present in private service would be at once withdrawn, and that free labour would be procured to supply their place. This is so far from being a likely case, that, according to returns of the Executive, an annual supply of labour, for some time to come, will be provided from amongst those now directly under Government in the gangs at Port Arthur, or Norfolk Island, which will in part, if not entirely, fill the vacancy of those who, from time to time, may become free.

The consequence of the cessation of transportation would be gradual, not sudden; and its results on the prosperity of the colony could not be ascertained for years.

Certain it is, that the island cannot flatter itself on its success during the past few years, even in a pecuniary point

of view. Many of its best and most useful inhabitants are month after month leaving the colony, and its towns now do not number as many free inhabitants as they did in 1840. Whilst the population in New South Wales is computed to double itself in seven years, that of Van Dieman's Land has, within the same period, decreased. In the year ending March, 1847, 4,519 free persons left the island; actually more than the number who, in that year, had become free. Many of these, no doubt, were persons who had only just acquired their liberty; but they were the best and most valuable of this class,—the healthy, young, and strong. If the tide of emigration were to continue for a few years to this extent, the entire free population would desert the island, the rich would not remain to have their children demoralized by the contamination around, and the poor would depart, as they now do, from a place where they are subjected to the competition in the labour market of persons who are of necessity confined to the island. So fully aware have the more respectable portion of the inhabitants become of the evils of transportation, as it is at present conducted, that they have come forward, boldly and strenuously, and urged its abandonment; and, as the matter is of so much importance, the author is induced to give a condensed account of a great meeting at Hobart Town, held for the purpose of adopting a petition on the subject to the House of Commons. The account is taken from the "Launceston Examiner," May 8, 1847.

TRANSPORTATION—GREAT PUBLIC MEETING, HOBART TOWN.

"The public meeting to consider the question whether Transportation should be continued to this colony, was held this day, at one o'clock, in the City Theatre.

"For some time past, the advocates of Transportation have been busily engaged in disseminating all manner of fictions calculated to bolster up their cause; in abusing the friends of morality; in placarding the walls of the city with flaming addresses; and, worst of all, trying to excite the hatred and ill-will of those, who, by honest industry and propriety of conduct, have blotted out their past errors, against that large portion of respectable citizens who were known to advocate the abolition of transportation. The latter, conscious of high and holy purposes, and of the strength of a good cause, treated the inventions and measures of a faction with silent contempt; they felt that the day was coming when the citizens of Hobart Town would record, in a public manner, their judgment of the great question before them, and in that judgment they confided. Their expectations have not been disappointed; for the first resolution submitted to the meeting,—'That Transportation to this Colony be abolished at once and for ever,'—was carried triumphantly by an overwhelming majority.

"The Sheriff opened the meeting by requesting the appointment of a chairman, and A. F. Kemp, Esq., was called to this office amidst loud cheers.

"He expressed his sense of the responsible situation to which he had been called, and expressed his hope that all speakers would be listened to with patience and quietness. He was about to say a few words in explanation of his own

views, but was interrupted by Mr. Stewart (the attorney), one of the pro-transportation party, who objected to any remarks being offered by the chairman. Several of the same party joined in the clamour, and the chairman, to avoid further delay, with his usual good humour waived his right.

"R. Jacomb, Esq., moved the first resolution. This gentleman asked whether the colony was to remain the sink-hole of the empire, and proved in a most satisfactory manner that no monetary advantage is derived from the presence of the prisoner. He stated that last year the commissariat expenditure was £189,000, but from this had to be deducted £40,000 paid for meat imported from Port Phillip. Moreover, that last year £62,000 customs' duties had been paid by the colonists for articles which, when imported into New South Wales, would have cost our neighbours only £30,000 duty; the additional £32,000 levied upon us being required simply in consequence of the presence of prisoners. The speaker established his position fully, by referring to the loss of the land fund and other monetary disadvantages; and by showing that not the whole sum expended by the commissariat, but only the profit thereon, ought to be taken as a benefit derived by the colony. Considering the low rate at which tenders were generally taken, he thought that profit to be no more than 10 per cent.; and the calculation would therefore stand thus:—commissariat expenditure £189,000, deduct for meat imported from Port Phillip, £40,000; leaving £149,000, or 10 per cent, profit; £14,900 gain to the colony. On the other hand, the colony loses £32,000 by additional custom dues as shown above, and suffers from

numerous depredations, &c. The speaker was loudly cheered.

"Dr. Officer seconded the resolution. He said he had never before spoken at a public political meeting, and had always shunned the excitement incident to such assemblages; but the present occasion was too important to the future welfare of the colonists at large, and of his own family, for him to remain silent. Though he coveted not the fame of posterity, yet he was not inclined to let his name, in after-ages, be branded with infamy, as one who, in the hour of need, had deserted the best interests of the colony. He deprecated the means which had been employed by the pro-transportation party, to create ill-feeling between the free colonist emigrants, and those who had regained their position in society by good conduct; for the latter he had always harboured the best of feelings; yea, he had never ceased to consider those whose errors and offences had brought them here, as brethren, for whose moral and temporal welfare he was bound to care. But he could not shut his eyes to the vast amount of vice and crime found in the colony, in consequence of transportation. The experiments of reform had all failed, and had proved equally injurious to the bond and free. After referring to history for proof, that the prosperity of communities cannot exist without a large share of morality, he concluded a most eloquent speech, too long to record more fully, by seconding the resolution, and retired amid long-continued cheers.

"Joseph Allport, Esq., supported the resolution in a very able manner. He elucidated the moral deterioration occasioned to the free by the position of the prisoner in relation

to them; the hardness of heart occasioned by the habitual sight and clank of the chain. He referred to the large salaries paid to our Government officers, in consequence of the presence of the prisoner; to the improper manner we were governed, because we were denied free institutions, and the control of our own affairs, in consequence of the presence of prisoners. He was anxious that the colonists should be unanimous. He begged to remind the meeting, that the question was, in fact, transportation and probationism, or no transportation. If we called for transportation, the Colonial Office would care little for our clamour about probationism; they would continue their reform experiments until every free man was driven out of the colony. Loud acclamations followed his speech.

"When the chairman was about to put the resolution to the meeting, T. Y. Lowes, Esq., came forward to move an amendment. He said that, not being in the habit of speaking at public meetings, he had written his speech, and intended to read it. This was objected to by many persons as opposed to the general usage of public assemblies. The pro-transportation party, however, clamoured for the speech to be read; and after creating much disturbance, the chairman interposed by putting it to the meeting, whether they would allow Mr. Lowes to read his speech. This being negatived, Mr. Lowes simply read the amendment, which was to the effect, that though many evils are suffered by the colonists, from the presence of prisoners, yet that it is expedient to continue transportation until our prosperity is more fully secured.

"T. Macdowell, Esq. rose, not to second the amendment, which he disapproved, but to propose one himself, viz.—

That transportation be continued under a modified system. He began his address by calling in question Dr. Officer's assertion that he had never spoken at a political public meeting. This observation elicited the disapprobation of the meeting, manifested by loud hisses. After the chairman had appeased the storm, and Mr. Macdowell's voice became again audible, he attacked Mr. Allport, and this proceeding was also resented by the meeting, which refused to hear more from a gentleman who had apparently only come there to create division. However, Mr. M'Lachlan interposed, and obtained a hearing for Mr. Macdowell, who then complained of unfair play. He did not see that the morality of the colony had deteriorated, and referred to the quiet state of Hobart Town, to the number of public schools and other institutions of this character, to prove the contrary. He said that he proposed that no probationer should be allowed to be assigned in the towns.—(Mr. R. Kermode "Nor in the country!" Loud cheers). He said he would prove that the proportion of the number of prisoners compared to the free had been exaggerated. Some observation from the gallery interrupted the speaker, who said that it was of no use for him to address the meeting, as he was certain they had come there prejudiced.

"Mr. Carter then came forward, and complained of unfair play, and proposed an amendment, to the effect, that the meeting adjourn to this day week.

"This was seconded by E. Macdowell, Esq., but on being put to the meeting was lost by an overwhelming majority.

"The Chairman then put the original resolution, viz.,

'That transportation be abolished,' which was carried amid the joyful acclamations of the vast assembly.

"F. Smith, Esq., proposed the excellent petition (which we insert below) drawn up by Mr. Pitcairn. It prays that transportation be abolished—that 12,000 free emigrants be sent to the colony at the expense of the English Government, and that the land fund be restored. This and the other resolutions, advocated by Messrs. Gregson, M'Lachlan, W. S. Sharland, and some mechanics, were all carried by large majorities, only a few hands being held up against them.

"Thanks were then voted to the chairman.—Three cheers for the Queen closed this important meeting; and although his Excellency has hinted that he intends to pay more attention to the opinions of individuals than to those of public assemblies, he may rest assured that the citizens of Hobart Town will take means to make the opinions there expressed heard."

THE PETITION.

"*To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled:*

"The humble petition of the Free Colonists of Van Dieman's Land, in public meeting assembled—

"SHEWETH—

"That in the month of January, 1846, a Petition from this Colony was presented to your Honourable House, complaining of the overwhelming numbers of convicts sent by the English Government to Van

Dieman's Land; showing that upwards of 16,000 had been introduced within four years; that the Colonists were compelled by the Government to pay the whole expense of the Police, Gaols, and Courts of Law employed in the coercion and control of all these criminals, while the Crown Lands in the Colony had been rendered unsaleable, and the Land Fund was diminishing; and calling the attention of your Honourable House to the great increase of crime—the depravity of the convicts, caused by the probation system—pointing out that if that system were continued, it must drive out the free inhabitants—and praying for an immediate diminution of the number of convicts—for the adoption of better means for their moral and social improvement—for relief to the colonists from the heavy expenses unjustly forced upon them under the convict system, and for the gradual and total abolition of transportation to Van Dieman's Land.

"That it was publicly admitted by the English Government that the complaints of the colonists in this Petition had not been exaggerated.

"That, in the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Treasury upon the subject brought under the notice of your Honourable House by this Petition, the necessity of affording relief to Van Dieman's Land was declared to be urgent; it was admitted that the value of our lands was depreciated by the new convict system; that the effect of that system was to deter emigrants from settling in the colony; and the injustice of extorting taxes from the colonists to pay the expense of managing all the convicts of England was characterised as a burden 'ex-

ceeding a capitation tax of 20*s.* per annum on every free colonist in the island,' as 'a charge unexampled in any other society living under constitutional Government.'

"That in a despatch from the Colonial Office to the Lieutenant-Governor it was promised, as some measure of relief, that her Majesty would establish a new colony, to be called North Australia, for the reception of convicts; and it was further promised that £24,000 a-year, being two-thirds of the estimated expense of gaols and police, should be contributed by the British Treasury.

"That, inadequate as this contribution evidently was, when it was known that from 1840 to 1845 the colony had paid £199,038 for the expense of police and gaols alone, and upwards of £39,000 more for the judicial establishments which are employed principally in trying English convicts for crimes committed in the colony, the last published return showing that of 135 convictions before the Supreme Court, 131 were those of convicts—yet the British Government, as a consideration for their payment of £24,000 a-year towards the police, took from us the land fund, which was our own property, which we had possessed for ten years, and which New South Wales and the other Australian colonies still possess; and the land fund was thus taken, although, during the five years we have mentioned and up to the present time, the English Government have refused to allow the convicts within the island to be employed in any public work for the benefit of the colony, except on payment of wages to the English Commissariat from the colonial revenue, which they knew was exhausted.

"That, nevertheless, as our case was under consideration

and the justice of our remonstrances was admitted, we hoped for some further relief, and we looked forward with confidence to at least the abolition of the Probation Gang System, which had been proved to be worse than any system of transportation that preceded it, and to a stop being put to the further influx of convicts to Van Dieman's Land.

"That our hopes were increased by an intimation from the Colonial Office that transportation to this colony would be suspended for two years, and by the appointment of the Governor and several subordinate officers of the new colony of North Australia.

"That, in the month of August last we petitioned your Honourable House for a Representative Assembly, showing that the expenditure of the colony was above £90,000 a-year, (exclusive of the expense of the police and gaols) while that of South Australia, with a population, equal to more than one-half of the free inhabitants of this colony, was under £23,000,—that an important branch of our internal trade had been suppressed by the local Government to support the Revenue,—that this was openly avowed,—that a debt of £111,000 had been incurred within two years and a half,—that our Legislature (nominated by the Crown) had itself declared in 1840 that we could bear no further taxation,—that in the face of this declaration new taxes had been subsequently imposed on us,—that the expenditure of our Revenue was concealed not only from the public, but from some of the members of the Legislative Council themselves,—and that the Executive Government had exercised the power of borrowing money on their own authority,—had publicly

asserted their right so to do,—had refused to account for the expenditure of the money thus borrowed, and had obtained a majority of the Legislative Council to vote for its repayment out of the taxes.

"That the statements and complaints made in this petition were declared by the British Government to have been sustained; and, as we had again complained of the transportation system, we were promised that the number of convicts in the island should be immediately diminished.

"That we were thus led to believe that our hopes were about to be realized,—that not only would the probation system be swept away, but that the number of convicts in the island would be reduced as soon as possible; that our expenditure would be confined within some reasonable limits; that we should be permitted to use our own taxes for our own benefit, and that we should receive the constitutional benefit of a representative Government.

"That we have now, with the deepest regret, to represent to your Honourable House, that the measures that have been since adopted by the Government, have been in direct opposition to the pledges that were publicly given us.

"That, although the allowance of £24,000 a-year towards the expense of the police and gaols was promised in September, 1845, yet the first payment was not made until the present year, and not until it was ascertained that the British Commissariat made upwards of £3,000 a-year by selling coals to the inhabitants, and saved £24,470 a-year in competing with the settlers, by cultivating grain

and depasturing sheep upon the very lands which belong to the colony, under our right to the land fund.

"That as yet no retrenchment has been made in our civil expenditure; that the infamous system of keeping the convicts in gangs continues in full force; that we are informed that orders have been given to abandon the colony of North Australia; that since the promise that transportation to this colony should be suspended for two years, and that the number of convicts in the Island should be diminished, 394 male convicts and 318 females have been sent from England, without the slightest explanation on the part of the authorities; that within the last three weeks 36 convicts, some doubly and trebly convicted, have been sent hither from Sydney; and, last and worst, that since the 31st of March last, 400 convicts have been brought to this colony from Norfolk Island, and the Government has given notice that the remainder, amounting to 1002, are to be immediately introduced.

"That, as respects our prayer for a Representative Assembly, the official answer of the Colonial Office is, that the Queen's Government are prepared to recommend to her Majesty a compliance with our petition, if it be found practicable to take the necessary securities against any consequent insubordination among the convicts, and so to arrange the details of the measure as to render the representation real, impartial, and effective; and the Lieutenant-Governor is directed to send a full report upon the whole question.

"That, while it is thus conceded that the colonists are in every respect qualified for a Representative Government, and entitled to it, the English authorities first force upon

us a mass of convicts, and refuse to diminish their number, and then refuse us an Elective Assembly, because the convicts are in the island, whom they themselves sent, and whom they themselves compel to remain.

"That the fear expressed by the Colonial Office, that the giving us a Representative Government may cause insubordination among the convicts, is manifestly without reason, for it is we who, of all others, are most interested in maintaining proper subordination among them.

"That there are at this time in the colony 26,268 male convicts, and 4,578 females; that of these male convicts upwards of 7,600 are in gangs, and of the females upwards of 1,000 are in factories, or gaols.

"That this frightful statement will, as we fervently hope and trust, of itself prevail on your Honourable House to adopt immediate and decisive measures for our relief, and for the benefit of the convicts themselves.

"That as the Census Act was, in fact, repealed by the Colonial Act of the 31st of October, 1845, and no census has been taken since 1842, these numbers were not known to the colonists until April last, when they were published in the 'Gazette,'—and that they exceed by 4,000 the greatest number of convicts that ever were, at one time, in the large colony of New South Wales.

"That in the year ending 31st of March last, 2,651 free emigrants, and 1,868 other free inhabitants left this colony, making a total emigration of 4,519 free persons in one year, exclusive of children.

"That, until last year, no register, as far as we know, was kept of those who left the colony; but it was ascertained that, during the first half of the year 1845, 1,628

had departed, and, looking at the proportion of children shewn by the census of 1842, we do not overrate the number who have abandoned Van Dieman's Land since 1841, when we estimate it at no less than 12,000 free persons.

"That of these, many were our best farming men, and our best tradesmen and mechanics, who were driven from their occupations not only by the influx of criminals, but by the low rate of wages caused by the overflowing supply of the labour of convicts, not permitted to quit the colony, but allowed to work for themselves, and to compete with the free colonists, and supported by the government in idleness when they were out of work, or not disposed to work.

"That the colony being in the condition which we have described, with this crowd of convicts, with the free colonists thus driven out, at a time when it has become almost impossible to obtain a free mechanic or a free labourer, his Excellency has been directed by the Colonial Office to circulate among the colonists three queries, the first of which is, 'Do you consider it desirable that the transportation of convicts to this colony shall cease altogether?' the second asks, 'in what number convicts should be sent to this colony?' and the third, 'what improvement can be made in hiring the present probation convicts?'

"That these queries have been circulated with a view, as we believe, to the report which the Lieutenant-Governor has been directed to make, with reference to our claim to a Representative Government.

"That in the letter by which these queries are ac-

companied, the colonists are told that the question whether transportation to Van Dieman's Land shall or shall not continue, is altogether unconnected with other matters of public interest.

"That the assertion that the transportation question is unconnected with other matters of public interest is erroneous; and, coming from such authority, tends to mislead the colonists; for the transportation question is inseparable from all our social, moral and political relations—from free emigration—from the price of labour — from our taxation and its expenditure — from the security of life and property—from the amount of crime — from the harassing duty thrown on the colonists as jurymen on the trials of convicts—from the expense of police and judicial establishments—from the restoration of our land fund—and lastly, by the declaration of the Colonial Office itself, it is inseparable from our claim to a Representative Government.

"That apart from this, we protest against either the question of transportation or the question of our political freedom being made dependent upon the report or opinion of any individual, whatever his rank, experience, or talents may be; and—with every respect for the character of Sir William Denison — we especially protest against these great questions being made dependent upon the report of the Lieutenant-Governor, whose influence and patronage must necessarily be curtailed by the abolition of transportation, and the establishment of Representative Government.

"That to continue transportation to this colony, is to injure the free inhabitants of every class, and to injure

the convicts themselves; that we humbly submit to your Honourable House that, with upwards of 30,000 convicts already in the island, and with the free inhabitants abandoning it every day, it cannot, and ought not to be a question whether transportation to Van Dieman's Land shall or shall not be continued; that we do most solemnly protest against its continuance, and we pray your Honourable House that it may be abolished at once and for ever.

"That we further pray your Honourable House to grant us without delay a Representative Assembly, not only as a privilege of the utmost value to every community, but as the only measure which can remedy the mis-government under which we have so long suffered, and which we humbly submit to your Honourable House is unexampled in any dependency of Great Britain; for, after we had been by the act of Parliament of 1828 deluded into the belief that within a few years we should have a Representative Government, in 1841 the whole convicts of the British empire were poured upon us: we have been subjected to incessant depredation; our taxes have been increased until even the officers of the Crown publicly declared they could raise no more; that taxation has been exhausted in police, gaols, and courts of law for the convicts, and in maintaining a civil establishment, of which two-thirds are required only for the management of the convicts—our land fund has been openly taken to pay the convict police—the free colonists have been driven out by thousands—and, while New South Wales, governed under the same act of Parliament with ourselves, obtained a Representative Assembly five years ago, we are denied

that privilege, because it is feared that by granting it the convict system may possibly be injured.

"That although the neighbouring Australian colonies are all free from these intolerable grievances, we yet submit to your Honourable House, that the spectacle of the degradation and oppression of Van Dieman's Land constantly before their eyes, and commented upon by their press, is calculated to lesson among them those sentiments of respect and attachment to the British Government which ought to be cherished by all the colonies of the empire.

"That as the measures of the English Government have been the sole cause of driving out the free inhabitants, and as we have paid more than £200,000 in five years for the management of English convicts, we further pray your Honourable House that not less than 12,000 free emigrants may be sent to Van Dieman's Land at the expense of the English Treasury.

"That we further pray that our land fund, which can be made productive when transportation ceases, may be restored to us, and that it may be placed under the control of the colony, in order to provide for future free immigration.

"That in petitioning for this immigration at the expense of England, and for the restoration of our land fund, we do not appeal to the favour or indulgence which your Honourable House has on many occasions most wisely evinced towards English colonies, but to your sense of rectitude and justice—we do not ask you to do for us what has been done for Port Phillip, by

giving the settlers large estates almost gratuitously; or for South Australia, by the payment of her public debt; or for New Zealand, by advancing money—we ask only your assistance towards replacing this colony in the position from which it was driven by the ill-advised and disastrous Convict System established by the English Government.

"That on behalf of the convicts now in the island, we pray that the Probation System at once be abolished—that no pretended improvements or modifications of it may be listened to—that measures may be taken to send out such of the wives and families of the convicts as may be willing to come—that the convict gangs may be broken up—and that as the free emigrants arrive, the convicts and their families may be transferred to North Australia, or elsewhere, as may be found to be most for their benefit.

"That the expense of these measures cannot for a a moment be weighed against the continuance of the convicts in their present condition, and that the enabling their wives and children to join them, as well as any other measures tending to their moral improvement, are but bare acts of justice towards those who have been subjected to the pernicious and miserable Probation System.

"That as respects those criminals who may hereafter require to be dealt with by the British Government, we humbly pray that no establishment whatever, with a view either to their reformation or punishment may be permitted to exist elsewhere than in England—that we abstain from any remark upon the details of the

38091

present system, but when we remind your Honourable House of the recent instances of mismanagement of the poor that have occurred even in England, it must be seen that in a distant colony abuses to an endless extent may be committed with impunity.

"That from the verbal communications which we understand have been made by the Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in September last, we still feel some degree of hope that our former prayer for a Representative Assembly may, before this time, have been granted; and if this anticipation shall turn out to be well founded, we shall be most thankful and grateful; but even if the privilege of an Elective Government has been conceded to us, we humbly trust that your Honourable House will not think the other important subjects to which our present petition refers, unworthy of your consideration.

"Your petitioners most humbly pray that transportation to Van Dieman's Land may be for ever abolished—that 12,000 free emigrants may be sent to this colony at the expense of the English Government—that our land fund may be restored—and that the measures which we have suggested, in reference to the convicts, or such other measurses as may appear to your Honourable House to be most conducive to their welfare, may be adopted.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

In this petition the colonists certainly make out a strong case, which, notwithstanding the opposition offered,

they resolved to set before the British Parliament. But although the facts adduced are such as ought to cause the cessation of the obnoxious system, what an overpowering, what an overwhelming case could they not have presented, if opening the records of crime and its effects on society in the colony, they had laid bare the state of morality, and exposed the horrid and appalling realities of which they are cognizant!

Whilst the colonists were thus publicly and privately endeavouring to preserve their adopted land, the attention of the British Government was drawn to the Penal System, by reports of the consequences of the Probation System that reached them from the officials of the colony. Such a state of matters as was represented, could not be permitted longer to continue by any Christian Government; and Lord Grey, the Colonial Minister, announced in Parliament last session, the intention of the executive to discontinue the transportation of males to Van Dieman's Land, for the space of two years; but as regarded females, still to send them thither, in order to promote an equalization of the sexes. Attempts, the Colonial Minister stated, were also to be made to amend the probation system, by enforcing a separate system of punishment in the colony; and emigration was to be promoted, in order "by the infusion of wholesome blood, to remove, as far as possible, the convict taint from the society."

It is indeed much to be desired that Lord Grey's expressed intentions may be fulfilled: they will undoubtedly tend to amend the evils which so notoriously

exist, and if carried out on a large scale, will ultimately effect the reformation so much required.

But, alas, the promises of to-day, are too often forgotten ere the morrow; or other Ministers with other ideas and opinions assume the reins of colonial government. Our colonial policy and penal discipline, as at present conducted, are nothing else but a series of experiments, projected by statesmen whose personal knowledge of our colonies is and must be, extremely limited. If on their accession to office, they apply themselves with the greatest attention and diligence to their duties, in order to become well acqainted with them, and the condition of the countries they govern, yet they can scarcely be expected to acquire even a general and cursory acquaintance with regions which, "sweep the globe, and touch every shore," as the colonies of Great Britain do—before they are transferred to some other high office in the State, or are obliged to relinquish power. If any real knowledge of our colonies exist at the Colonial Office, it is amongst the subordinates, who only obtain it through the mass of official reports and despatches, which pass through their hands from the various Governors, not by seeing with their own eyes, and hearing with their own ears. On the second-hand information supplied by these persons, Colonial Ministers must in a great measure depend, and irresponsible officers are in reality the magnates who sway the destinies of thousands, nay, millions of human beings:—of colonies—in comparison with which Great Britain, as to her extent, is a mere petty patch of soil—and which in distant ages hence, will arise great

nations, powerful people, offshoots of the Anglo-Saxon race.

The prosperity and advancement of the colonies should be the greatest aim and end of England; for each is a guarantee of her continued prosperity and wealth. But the colonists should be treated as brethren, and not as aliens; they should be governed with a just and tender hand, and legislation and administration be in a great measure confided to them, where numbers and intelligence desire the concession. The lesson taught England by the United States, should live for ever in the minds of her statesmen; and the bitter feeling of Americans, engendered by wrong and injustice, should warn Britain against alienating the affections of another large congregation of her subjects, who by their enterprize and perseverance have opened up fertile sources of commerce, in regions that were before a waste. Perhaps, no Minister that ever presided over the Colonial Board, pays more anxious attention to his duties than Lord Grey; but man is not infallible, the noble lord is compelled to arrive at his conclusions upon the reports of others, and in some instances his acts must be faulty. Collective wisdom legislates for Great Britain; why should it not be so with her colonies? In council there is wisdom, and out of the diversity of opinions knowledge is educed; why might there not be constituted at the Colonial Office, a council, presided over by the Minister, without whose approbation no measure should be adopted, no veto or confirmation passed upon the bills of the Colonial Assemblies sent home for approval?

This council should be composed of persons with a

personal knowledge of some one or many important colonies; they should hold office permanently, unless in case of misconduct. If they were removable by the Minister, then the object for which they were created would be lost; for, liable to dismissal at the Minister's pleasure, they would become mere echoes of his opinions, without acting as a guide, still less as a check upon him. The number of such a body should be regulated by the extent of our colonies, and care should be taken that sufficient personal knowledge of one or more of the chief colonies should be possessed by every member of the Board. It is no disparagement to Lord Grey, to assert that no one individual could by any possibility become acquainted with the varied condition and opposite interest of our colonies: why not then create such a Board as suggested? What golden opinions and heaped-up blessings would not the Minister who would do so obtain at the hands of the colonists in every quarter of the globe!

CHAPTER IV.

CAUSES OF THE FAILURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND PROBATION SYSTEMS OF PENAL DISCIPLINE—A NEW SYSTEM SUGGESTED.

So extremely little is known in England of the real causes of the failure of the two systems under which transportation has been conducted for the last half century, that the author must lay before the reader the results of his personal experience on the matter, in the hope of throwing some light on a subject, hitherto imperfectly considered, and consequently little understood.

From the earliest settlement of New South Wales, the assignments of convicts to private individuals was resorted to, both as a means of benefiting the master, and lightening the burden imposed upon the Executive, in the support of convicts. The Assignment System continued in force in that colony until transportation thither ceased in 1839; and then, although further assignment was put an end to, yet those in private service were permitted to remain, until they became entitled to their "freedom or the indulgence of a ticket of leave:" the Probation System has never been introduced into New South Wales.

In Van Dieman's Land, the Assignment System was also

in operation, until replaced, a few years since, by the probation system; under which, according to Lord Stanley, then Secretary for the Colonies, "each convict should undergo a severe preliminary punishment, consisting, in great part, of a life of seclusion from society at large; and this punishment should be progressively mitigated, in such a manner as to afford an invigorating hope of further relief, and an animating motive to good conduct, until the convict should at length be restored to all the privileges of his fellow subjects."

To commence with the Assignment System. Its first and greatest evil was undoubtedly the uncertainty of punishment under it, and its disproportion, in many cases, to the extent and nature of the offence. Some of the greatest criminals, by being assigned to friends and kind masters, actually escaped all real punishment; whilst others, whose offences were of a trivial character, were treated worse than slaves by their assignees. Thus, it became a mere matter of chance, whether the convict would have his situation in life improved by transportation, or whether, by the infliction of the lash and the tyranny of his master, life would be made a burden to him.

When once a convict was assigned, from that moment he became completely subject to his master; indeed, under the "Transportation Act," the Governor of the colony possessed an actual property in the services of the convict, which he had the privilege of transferring to the free inhabitants, who had any power, short of an extension of life and liberty, over him. Brought before a magistrate, the single oath of the accuser was sufficient to commit to a chain gang the unfortunate convict, who could be scourged

for idleness, hasty words, *insolent looks*—anything, in short, which the assignee might think fit to construe or distort into offence.

If the convict possessed friends or means, his lot was a light one; the application of money was successful in transferring him ultimately, if not in the first instance, to one of these friends, or, as not unfrequently happened, to a wife, or some other relative. The proceeds of the robberies for which individuals have been transported, have been known to be applied in the colonies to these purposes, thus completely frustrating the intentions of the law. Numerous instances occurred of offenders, who had been assigned to their wives, relatives, or friends, realising property; and this fact becoming generally known in Great Britain, it often happened that offences were committed for the express purpose of being transported for them. Thus, transportation, under the Assignment System, operated not unfrequently as an incentive to crime; although, in too many instances, misguided beings had deeply to regret the ignorance that led them to seek deportation from their native land.

The punishment of the offender—designed not only to deter from the commission of crime, but also to reform the convict—the Assignment System failed in both these objects; first, by not holding out a salutary terror, and next, by making the situation and reformation of the convict, in a grea tmeasure, dependant on the master to whom, from circumstances or by chance, he might devolve.

Cases no doubt might be adduced, in which reformation under assignment has been effected, but they have been rare exceptions; and, moreover, it is scarcely credit-

able to a great nation to leave to chance the reformation of her erring children. The course of punishment to which assigned servants who offended were subjected, was another cause of the general want of amendment. The lash, applied on the slightest pretence, too often hardened and rendered callous to all better feelings, the unfortunate convict; and the road gangs, iron gangs, and penal settlements, inoculated with the most appalling vices such as were sent to them for punishment; which baneful knowledge, disseminated and inculcated upon all around, when the convict was once more assigned, affected the entire community.

Probation, established as an amendment on the Assignment System, still gave the free colonists the partial advantage of the convict's labour. In the very first step of this system, there was an egregious error committed; "the convicts secluded from society," were congregated in gangs, and thus compelled to rely on one another for companionship. This, as may be easily supposed, led to the still further demoralization and corruption of such as had to that period preserved any feelings of virtue or self esteem; they were laughed and shamed into crime by their associates.

No possible classification of probation gangs will have the effect of totally separating the partially innocent from the extremely guilty; and if but one black sheep remains, he is sufficient to corrupt the entire flock. Thus, the course intended to reform, only becomes a means of instruction in vice; the convict is secluded from the free, in this stage of his punishment, and there is no good man about him, whose example he can follow, whose advice he can ask,

as to his conduct; and he is of necessity cast upon others as guilty, if not more so, than himself.

The condition of the penal settlements has already been referred to, and is admitted by all authorities; yet, in most cases, a period of the convict's probation is passed at them, which gives him an opportunity of becoming acquainted with vice, such as is not imagined in English gaols. This, of course, tends to sink still lower the character and feelings of the convict, against the period when he becomes available for private employment as a pass-holder.

When hired by a master, the convict generally finds that his fellow-servants are of the same class in society as himself. If this were not the case, if the majority were free and respectable individuals, then the convict might be deterred from the commission of sin, and the better feelings which lay dormant in his bosom might be drawn out by association and example. But as it is, the competition of bond labour has had the effect of driving the free out of the island; and the convict servants are thus left to association with one another. The possession of a pass only affords greater facilities and opportunities of indulgence in every kind of vice. Were it not for this privilege, most convicts would much sooner continue "under Government" than in private employment. The receipt of wages acts but as a slight incentive to good; all the feelings of the convict are turned to the *enjoyment* or *suffering* of *the time being*—of the *present moment*—and the possession of money is only desirable to them, in so far as it affords means of indulgence. The author is not acquainted with one single instance in which a pass-holder saved money. Even when convicts become ticket-of-leave men, or acquire

their complete freedom, and remove to other colonies, they are almost always remarkable for squandering their wages the moment they are obtained.

When in private employment, the laxity of discipline caused by the law, which permits the frequent absence of the servant, on Sunday to attend worship, and once a month to purchase clothes, is the cause of much evil. The convict, on these occasions, falls in with old companions, drinks with them, relates his position, and the kind of master he has, and frequently ends by returning drunk, or absconding from his place, if so advised by his "pals." Very often at these meetings, plans of robberies are laid, and crimes concocted, which, under other circumstances, would not be thought of. The liberty afforded the pass-holder to spend his money, is too often an inducement to procure more for further indulgence; and as this is not to be done honestly, theft and robbery are resorted to.

The local laws of Van Dieman's Land are very strict on publicans, inflicting a heavy penalty in case of their being detected in supplying convict servants with spirits. But the law is inoperative, and all but useless in regard to pass-holders and ticket-of-leave men; for those classes wear no distinguishing dress by which publicans may know them, so that they have but to plead ignorance to escape the penalty. But, however, if this source of indulgence were effectually dried up, by a stringent act, imposing a uniform on all convicts, yet there would remain many ways of obtaining spirits, particularly in the neighbourhood of the towns. Amidst a society so constituted as that of Van Dieman's Land, there are numerous persons to be found who act as receivers of stolen goods, for which they

give in return rum, or some other means of intoxication. The houses of such parties become the resort of pass-holders, and if the licensed houses were closed against them, yet these "sly grog-shops" would supply them; the only difference being in the quality of the article and the price paid for it. These sly grog-sellers and receivers have, in most instances, been convicts; and on becoming free, take advantage of their extensive acquaintance with others of the same class, and establish these houses. If detected in their practices, a heavy fine is the result; but this consequence seldom ensues, as they are very vigilant in their profession. As long as convicts are permitted to frequent private houses without some plain and apparent reason, so long will these "sly grog-shops" flourish in Van Dieman's Land, and prove the sources from whence all kinds of crime proceed.

Fond of change and excitement, the pass-holder very often absconds, for no apparent cause, from his master's service. It may be, that he remains absent several days, and then surrenders himself at the nearest police-office. When brought before the magistrate, the offender always urges in his defence the bad treatment to which he had been subjected; and, whether his plea be true or false, the recognised policy of the Executive being mildness, he is merely sentenced, in consideration of his voluntary surrender, to a few days' imprisonment, when he again becomes eligible for hiring. This mercy is misplaced, and instead of checking the evil, promotes it. The convict desires a few days' liberty and a change of master, and obtains it thus easily, at small expense to himself. This should not be. If the convict has a just cause of com-

plaint against his master, he ought to lay it before the stipendiary magistrate of the district, and, if well founded, the agreement should be cancelled, and the convict become eligible for other employment. Servants should not be permitted at their will to break these agreements; permanency in situations should be enforced as much as possible, and a severe punishment attend on absconding.

Under the Assignment System, no convict was ever permitted to absent himself without a written pass from his master; and if found out after a certain hour, and the expiration of the time mentioned in the pass, the convict was considered a "prisoner illegally at large," and punished accordingly. For the arrest of any "prisoner illegally at large," a reward of small amount was given, and this always kept the police on the *qui vive* to arrest such persons.

Convicts in private service are not now required to produce those written passes; they may, without question or obstruction, roam about the towns whither they please. This certainly should be put an end to, and the liberty of the convict be materially restricted, if the present system is to be continued. In few words, the causes of the failure of the Probation System may be classed under the following heads:—

1st. The extreme demoralization caused by the collection, in large numbers, of the convicts at the penal settlements and gangs in the early stage of probation.

2nd. The laxity of discipline and habits of indolence engendered whilst in probation gangs or employed on public works.

3rd. The loose discipline exercised over convicts when

they become pass-holders, and the facilities they possess of committing crime undetected, from being permitted, at certain periods, to range at will.

4th. The want of all good example, and the controlling reformatory effect that a virtuous free labouring population would impart.

These causes are applicable to the females as well as males; but with regard to the latter, there is another and excessive incentive to immorality in the extreme disproportion of the sexes.

Assignment and Probation having alike failed of producing the desired effect, it becomes necessary to consider what is the best system of punishment to adopt, at the same time to restrain crime and reform the convict. It has been signified that it is the intention of the Government to adopt a system of classification and preliminary punishment at home, and afterwards to deport the convicts to the colonies, where they would become free immediately on landing.

The scheme is, in part, a good one; it looks well in theory, like the Probation System, but the question is, how will it be found to work when carried into practice? The author having had numerous opportunities of observing the operation of penal discipline, not only in the colonies, but other countries, presumes in the scheme he now submits, to give a form to the result of his experience.

On the conviction of an offender, a register should be made of what has been elicited at the trial, with respect to his previous character, position in life, and the circumstances that led to the perpetration of the offence of which he has been found guilty. This record should be accom-

panied by a statement of the age of the convict, for his classification should partly depend upon this circumstance. The greatest care should be taken in the classification of prisoners, who, on being convicted, should be transferred, without delay, to penitentiaries, or model prisons. To each prisoner should be allotted a separate cell, in which, under no circumstances, should he be allowed a companion. If able to read, proper books of instruction should be furnished; and it would be found that, for want of other occupation, these would soon be read with avidity. The solitary character of the convict's imprisonment should only continue for a certain portion, say two-thirds, of the twenty-four hours. Each day, the class to which the convict belonged should be marshalled in a room or hall, each being kept separate by partitions, yet accessible to masters, who, walking up and down the centre of this apartment, might have a perfect view of all. Strict silence should be imposed and enforced, its breach being punishable by prolonged solitary confinement. The classes might thus be taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and the elements of a plain education.

So many hours a day having been devoted to education, a certain portion of time should be allotted to the instruction of the convict in some trade or calling, which would ultimately enable him to procure an honest livelihood. A portion of the eight hours unoccupied by the foregoing two courses, might be set apart for religious instruction. At all times the convicts should be prohibited from conversing with one another. In many of the model prisons of the United States this is the case, and the course is not found of difficult accomplishment. The great object of

this would be to prevent the further demoralization of the prisoners by intercourse with each other, and to prepare their minds for the reception of the lessons of morality.

The period of the continuance of this Solitary and Separate System should be made contingent, not only on the term of original sentence, but also on the conduct and disposition of the convict; in no case should it be less than one-third of the period of sentence.

Of all punishments, the vicious most dislike and fear solitary confinement: the author has known many instances in New South Wales in which the lash and the iron gang possessed no terror for the convict, yet one month's solitary confinement was found effective. If carried to too great an extent, solitary confinement, it is true, affects the mind; but this would be prevented in the proposed scheme, by the daily lessons given to the convict, and the occupation afforded to his mind by books. Yet the perpetual silence imposed, except where it was necessary to communicate with the masters and superiors, would act as an extremely severe punishment on all.

In the desire to reform and amend, it is absolutely necessary not to lose sight of the fact, that if a *severe* and clearly ascertained preliminary punishment be not inflicted, *crime will be committed purposely to procure conviction.* At the present time, and indeed for years past, transportation has lost its terrors for most offenders; and it is often sought as a means for removing the poor man from want and beggary, in the belief that, on being forwarded to the colonies, plenty and comfort await him. But this would hardly be the case, if it were well known that every convict would have to undergo one-third of the term of his

sentence secluded from all his fellow creatures, and with perpetual silence imposed upon him. There is no doubt but that few would be found bold enough to court such a punishment; for in severity it is extreme. When the convict had completed his preliminary discipline, and his conduct would warrant such a course, he should be eligible to be forwarded to the colonies.

On board the transport conveying convicts to the colonies, the utmost order should be enforced, and silence, both day and night, by means of warders, whose duty it would be to patrol the convicts' quarters night and day; a breach of discipline should be punishable by solitary confinement on board, or after arrival.

On landing, the convicts should be retained under the same Separate System, until engaged by a master. When hired, they should at once become free in the colony, but not at liberty to leave it until the expiration of the term of their original sentence.

As the expense of the transit of the convict is entailed, by his own misconduct, on the Government, the computed cost of his passage should be defrayed by himself, by such instalments as his wages would afford. To ensure this payment, an easy mode might be adopted. A Superintendent of "Exiles"—which name would be appropriate to the class—should be appointed at the chief town of the colony, whose duty it would be to keep a register of the names and description of the exiles landed, but without any record of the crime for which they had been convicted, as that offence should be considered as expiated by the preliminary punishment. As each exile was hired, it would be the duty of the Superintendent to give him a

pass for the district whither he was proceeding. It might be made incumbent on the exile to present himself once a year to a police magistrate, or other executive officer, to produce his pass, and pay a certain instalment of his passage money. No exile should be permitted to leave a district, without having his pass crossed by the stipendiary magistrate; and when removing to another jurisdiction, the exile should be bound to give notice to the magistrate of that district.

The breach of any of the regulations imposed should be punishable by a certain term of solitary imprisonment; in no case should the lash be resorted to, but the length of imprisonment should be such as to be severe. With every inducement to escape from the bondage imposed, which could only be effected by a compliance with these regulations, there is no doubt but the exile would use his utmost exertion to defray the claim, and acquire perfect freedom in the colony.

In order to work out this plan, it would be necessary for the Superintendent of Exiles, not only to keep a register of the names of each, but also the district in which they were engaged. A copy of this record should, once a year, be sent to the stipendiary magistrate of each district, in order to inform that functionary of every particular relating to the exiles in his district. The stipendiary magistrates should, on the other hand, be bound from time to time to forward to the Superintendent particulars of the exiles who arrived within his jurisdiction and departed from it. Thus, the Superintendent of Exiles would be able, on reference to his register, to ascertain the district of each exile, and whether he had paid his annual instalment

or not. The working of this plan would be found easy and efficacious, and would require but little addition to the executive machinery at present established in most of the colonies.

In the transportation of exiles to the colonies, care should be taken to impose them on no community unwilling to receive them. The principle of "dispersion" should also constantly be kept in view, so that in no place would a large number of exiles be assembled; and the proportion of the free population should in all cases largely exceed the exiles.

Penal settlements should at once and for ever be abolished; they are a disgrace to any Christian country, and the source of unparalleled crime. Those best acquainted with them, agree in the fact, that a man subjected to a term of punishment at them, is totally unfit to return to society. If excess of punishment is required for some offences, can it not be found in the Solitary and Separate System? solitude can tame the wildest beast of prey, and will it not have the same effect on human nature? It may be urged, as before remarked, that insanity often results from this system, but it is not necessary that it should be carried out to such extreme lengths. But even if insanity were in a few instances the result, is it not better that such should be the case, than that thousands of beings should be converted into demons, and penal settlements into hells that humanity revolts at?

The author cannot, in the limited space afforded by these pages, more fully develop the system he would recommend; but he has stated sufficient to convey an

outline and idea of it.° In vain has punishment on the congregational, we might call it, the social principle, been tried in every country in Europe; for how few well authenticated instances of reformation ensuing from it can be adduced!

In the United States, the Solitary System has been extensively tried; and the restitution of the convict to society—an altered and virtuous man—has been often the result. The proposed plan would be an improvement on the American scheme, inasmuch as only a portion of the convict's sentence would be performed in solitude, and a premium would be held out to the well-conducted by expediting his departure for the colonies.

The advantage and benefit of the convict's labour would only be lost during a portion of his time of sentence; the remainder would be carried to distant countries, and the expense of his transit thither would have to be defrayed by himself.

There are few of the colonies of Great Britain that would not gladly embrace the offer of an importation of exiles who had previously undergone such a preliminary course as the one suggested. In all new countries labour is wealth, and as a great proportion of offenders are able-bodied persons without the encumbrance of young children, they would be found particularly useful in the colonies.

Perhaps no country in Europe has paid less attention to criminal discipline than Great Britain: few, even among her statesmen and legislators, have, until a very late period, directed their attention to the subject. It has been the habit, when once an offender was convicted, to lose all

further regard or consideration for him; and the same sentence that rendered him dead in the eyes of the law, also appears to have shut him out from the sympathies of his fellow creatures. Thus, exciting little interest in the public mind, the criminals of this great country have been hitherto almost completely left to be experimented on by succeeding Secretaries of State. This is not as it should be; human nature is liable to err, and few there are who, at some period of their lives, have not been guilty of offences of more or less magnitude; therefore, mankind should be lenient, and careful of those outcasts of society whom the laws have condemned. It is to be hoped, that by the present Premier, whose attention has been devoted to the subject, a large and comprehensive scheme may be laid before Parliament, and that the disgrace of neglecting her criminals will no longer rest upon Great Britain. If penal discipline were amended, there is little doubt that a large saving would arise to the country, in consequence of the decreased expense of the administration of justice, owing to the reformation of such as had once been subjected to the discipline of Houses of Correction; whereas at present, time after time are the same persons convicted; but no amendment ensues, and they are a continued expense to the country. It is a pity that with its many apparent advantages, so fine an island as Van Dieman's Land should become, month by month, owing to Great Britain's penal policy, more completely the land of the felon,—the free population departing as they can from the country. It is almost needless to say, that the author would not, under present circumstances, recommend it to the emigrant of any rank or station in life;

what the future may develop, time and the policy of the British Government alone will show.

Lord Grey promises, by the promotion of an extensive scheme of emigration, and "by the infusion of wholesome blood, to remove, as far as possible the convict taint from society." But then even, if emigrants are introduced into the island, can they be induced to remain there whilst the "probation system" continues, and the neighbouring colonies hold out such advantages? This is a main point, and should not be lost sight of by the Government. At the present time, the people of Australia Felix are so much in want of labour, that they provide free passages to all liberated felons, as well as others who wish to leave the island. If free labour were to be found in Van Dieman's Land, how much more anxious would the settlers and squatters of the neighbouring colony be to obtain it, and how much greater would be the inducements held forth for this object!

How then is the island to be colonized with the free, whilst the competition and demoralization of probation labour is continued? In no one way! In vain would mutual agreement, with penalties for the breach of it, seek to retain the free in the island; the law would be eluded, or the free labourer become so neglectful of his work, that his master would only be too glad to cancel any existing arrangement. As long as the neighbouring colonies would hold out superior advantages to labour, thither would the working man make his way. In what manner then must Van Dieman's Land be reformed, and its interests promoted?

Restrict the liberty of the general mass of convicts

there, and permit none to become eligible to be hired, unless they can be trusted with perfect freedom in the island. Remove all clogs and restrictions that might prevent the convict from hiring himself to whom he chooses, and at the highest wages he can obtain. If, when in private employment he relapses into crime, punish him with severity, but eschew the lash. Abolish all compulsory depreciated wages; no free man will remain as a labourer in the island whilst such a system continues. Then promote an extensive system of emigration to all the Australian colonies; relieve Great Britain of thousands of her able-bodied, famishing children, and transfer them to a land of plenty; and wages will soon find a healthy level, and the free population of Van Dieman's Land will not be induced to leave their adopted country. Isolated emigration will not do; it will be only giving a supply to the other colonies, whilst Van Dieman's Land will have partially to bear the burthen of the introduction.

This island deserves another act of justice at the hands of the Government;—let her "land fund" be restored to its original purposes. When these things are done, then will this colony become prosperous—an important and valuable appendage to the British Crown; not as she is at present—a disgrace to humanity, a leper spot on the face of creation!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CHAPTER I.

ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS—GOVERNORS GAWLER AND GREY—INCREASE OF STOCK—LAND SALES AND CULTIVATION—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—GROWTH OF WOOL—BANKING—POPULATION AND OCCUPATION—RATES OF WAGES—RETAIL MARKETS AND PRICE CURRENT—FREIGHTS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA includes all that portion of the continent of Australia comprised within the 132nd and 141st degrees of east longitude, and extending from the shores of the Southern Ocean as far inland as the twenty-sixth degree of south latitude. This immense region, on its eastern side includes no less than twelve degrees of latitude, and throughout, nine degrees of longitude. The extent of land within its limits exceeds 300,000 square miles, which is about three times the size of Great Britain and Ireland. The boundary lines to the westward, northward and eastward, are mere artificial creations, sketched on the map of those boundless regions by persons whose knowledge of New Holland embraces chiefly the outlines of the coasts. As yet the foot of civilized man has never attained the northern boundary of the colony; the western country is equally unknown, but considerable information has been acquired with respect to the eastern boundary, which

separates New South Wales and Australia Felix from this province.

The shores of South Australia were first explored by Captain Flinders in the Investigator, about the year 1802. This able and zealous navigator discovered that two deep gulfs indented this part of the coast, viz.: Spencer's Gulf and Gulf St. Vincent; he also landed on Kangaroo Island, which lies directly opposite to the entrance of Gulf St. Vincent, and found there what he described to be rich land, with abundance of kangaroos and emus.

The shores of South Australia are, at some points, of difficult approach, in consequence of the numerous small islands that lie off them, more particularly in the neighbourhood of Spencer's Gulf; but Gulf St. Vincent is easy of access, alike from the eastward and westward, by means of navigable straits between Kangaroo Island and the mainland.

In 1834, an Act of Parliament was passed for erecting South Australia into a British province, and colonizing it on new principles. At this period, the only inhabitants of this vast country, besides the Aborigines, were a few escaped convicts, who had made their way thither from Van Dieman's Land or New South Wales, and had chiefly settled on Kangaroo Island. Under the Act of Parliament constituting the colony, it was necessary that £35,000 should be raised in England within a limited time by the sale of the waste lands of the colony; and as soon as this was effected, Commissioners were appointed (in 1835) to carry out the provisions of the Act. To be enabled to defray the preliminary expenses of the colony, the Commissioners were empowered to borrow £80,000, at 10 per

cent. interest; the amount to be secured on the Crown lands, and the interest to be paid out of the general revenue.

According to the Act of Parliament, there was to be a Representative Legislature granted to the colony when a population of 50,000 was acquired. Free grants of land were not to be made, under any pretence whatever, to private individuals; the sole mode by which the soil was to be obtained was by purchase, at not less than a fixed minimum price of £1 per acre, but for as much more as might be procured at sale by auction. In order to raise the £35,000 rendered necessary by the Act, the latter regulation was departed from in the sales of land that took place in England, the minimum price being reduced to 12*s.* per acre. Another inducement was also held out to original purchasers, in the shape of an acre of "town land," which was added to every preliminary section of 134 acres bought. Subject to the restriction of a fixed minimum price and sale by auction, all persons were at liberty to purchase lands to any extent, as soon as the necessary surveys could be completed. The whole of the revenue derived from the sale of waste lands was to be devoted to the introduction of emigrant labourers of the two sexes equally.

By these regulations, it was proposed to combine land, capital, and labour; to preclude the possibility of acquiring such vast grants of lands as had proved so prejudicial to other colonies, by being permitted to lie waste; and to concentrate the colonists within reasonable limits, so as to ensure them the benefits of contiguity and civilization. Since the establishment of the colony, the system has been

modified; only half the funds derived from waste lands being appropriated to the purposes of emigration, the remaining moiety being set aside for local improvements, &c.

The colony of South Australia was not to be subjected to the laws in existence in other parts of Australia, but to others framed and applied specially to itself, under the authority of the Governor, for the time being, and a Legislative Council appointed by the Crown, the latter having the right to a veto upon any of the proposed measures. On no pretence were convicts to be imported into the colony; and no State Church was to be established,—all religions and sects being left to provide for the ministers of their own persuasion.

The first emigrant ship arrived in the colony on the 27th July, 1836, and was followed, some months after, by the 'Buffalo,' store ship, with Captain Hindmarsh, R.N., who was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. This gentleman landed and proclaimed the settlement a British colony on the 28th of December, taking formal possession of it in the name of his Majesty William IV.

Although many emigrants and officials arrived previous to Captain Hindmarsh, yet it was not until the March of 1837, that even the survey of the town lands of the capital, Adelaide, was completed.

In order to act in conjunction with the Governor, the Commissioners in London had appointed an eminent legal gentleman, J. H. Fisher, Esq., under the title of Resident Commissioner, with powers to represent them in all respects. Colonel Light was made Surveyor-General, with an efficient staff. On the completion of the survey of the capital, those parties who were entitled by purchase, in

London, to town lots, made their selection according to priority: the number of these preliminary land orders was 437. The remaining unreserved town sections were then disposed of by public sale, at prices varying from £2 and upwards. As soon as the settlers got possession of their town lots, they commenced the erection of buildings of every description, from the humble "wattle and daub" to the solid stone house. Numbers had brought with them from Europe houses in frame; and of this kind was the first Government House, which Captain Hindmarsh brought with him in the 'Buffalo' from England.

Dissention and divisions unfortunately soon arose between the Governor, the Commissioner, and other chief officials; the surveys of the country lands proceeded slowly, and, in consequence of the inability of the settlers to get possession of them, thousands were assembled in and around the town, unable to employ their labour and capital in the production of food. Amongst the original arrivals in the province were many persons possessed of large means, who were thrown into a state of comparative idleness by the slow progress of the surveys; these parties had recourse to dealing and speculation in land among themselves, and to such a height did this mania extend, that town lots were sold, in many instances, at fifty and one hundred times the original price. This gambling generated a spirit of extravagance among all classes, and brought hundreds to ruin. All this while there was no cultivation going on, and provisions and supplies of every kind had to be imported. At first, prices, although high, were not excessive, but the influx of vast numbers of emigrants into the Australian colonies, the formation of several new settle-

ments, and a severe drought with which New South Wales was visited, had the effect of raising provisions to the most exorbitant prices. In conjunction with land gambling and dear provisions, wages rose to a very high point.

In May, 1838, the first allocation of country sections was made; the original London purchasers had their choice, and then the rest followed in succession, according to priority of purchase. Unhappily for the early success of the colony, so absorbed were the great mass of the population in land speculation, that they could not reconcile their minds to quitting Adelaide, and commencing the cultivation of their lots when the allocation took place.

In June, 1838, Captain Hindmarsh was recalled, in consequence of the disagreements that had taken place; and in July, he sailed for England, leaving the administration of affairs, for the time being, in the hands of the Colonial Secretary. In the early settlement of South Australia, the colonists exhibited the greatest folly and ignorance of colonization. Merchandize, furniture, machinery, and every description of articles it is possible to mention, they had brought with them. On their arrival in the country there were no buildings to house and protect these articles, and there were not even the means of carriage for them to the site of the future capital. For merchandize there was no demand, and accordingly the glut was excessive; and furniture and machinery were found cumbrous and unnecessary things by persons living in tents or temporary houses.

In Holdfast Bay, about nine miles from the future capital, the ships had, in the first instance, anchored, and a small town was established there, called Glenelg.

Between the latter and Adelaide, a low level marshy country intervened, across which everything had to be conveyed from the shipping, and in consequence of the scarcity of the means of transport, the most exorbitant rates were charged. Along the beach and around Glenelg every kind of merchandize and property was to be found piled, covered with tarpaulins, or completely exposed to the elements. Bales, boxes, bags, casks, millstones, frame-houses, machinery to the value of hundreds of thousands, were scattered about; and on the road to Adelaide, no small quantity was also to be seen, which the owners, from some cause or other, had only brought thus far.

In July, 1838, an Act of Parliament was passed, amending the former one for the foundation of the colony. The new Act empowered the Commissioners, or their representative in the colony, to borrow all such sums as might be necessary to carry on effectually the government of the colony from the revenues derivable from the waste Crown Lands. At the same time that Captain Hindmarsh had been recalled, the Commissioners in London abolished the office of Resident Colonial Commissioner, and resolved to delegate its duties to the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being.

Colonel Gawler received the appointment of Lieutenant-Governor, replacing Captain Hindmarsh, and arrived in the colony in October, 1838. Previous to this period, Colonel Light had resigned the situation of Surveyor-General, and Major Frome, of the Royal Engineers, was appointed in his stead. On the new Governor's arrival, the executive department of the Government became more efficient, and the surveys were actively proceeded with.

The powers with which Colonel Gawler had been invested were most extensive; and he had power to draw on the Commissioners of the Land Fund to an almost unlimited extent.

From the first settlement of the colony, live stock was extensively introduced by sea from Van Dieman's Land, which is only a few days' sail. In 1838, the first attempt to penetrate overland from New South Wales was made by Mr. Hawdon with a herd of between four and five hundred head of cattle. Notwithstanding several attacks that were made on him by the Aborigines, this enterprising gentleman succeeded, and arrived at Adelaide with 345 head of cattle, for which he obtained the most extravagant prices; pairs of working bullocks being sold for £60 and £70, and all other descriptions of cattle in the same proportion. The success of Mr. Hawdon induced many others to follow his example: we may mention Captains Finnis and Sturt, Dr. Imlay and Messrs. Eyre, Dutton and Campbell. In 1839, the demand being as brisk as ever, sheep and cattle were conveyed across by thousands in overland parties, notwithstanding the formidable opposition of the Aborigines along the banks of the Murray, more especially in the neighbourhood of the Darling and Rufus Rivers. Several parties were totally cut off, and others suffered severely in men or stock.

At the close of the year 1838, the total amount of stock in the colony was calculated to be:

	Sheep	Horses	Horned Cattle
	28,000,	480,	2,500
1839 Do.	108,700,	Do. 800,	Do. 7,600
1840 Do.	200,160,	Do. 1,060,	Do. 15,100

1841	Sheep	242,000,	Horses	1,650,	Horned cattle 16,696
1842	Do.	300,000,	Do.	1,850,	Do. 20.000
1843	Do.	350,000,	Do.	2,000,	Do. 25,000
1844	Do.	450,000,	Do.	2,150,	Do. 30,000
1847	Do.	620,000,	Do.	2,600,	Do. 38,000

Goats and Pigs	1838,	Number 780
Do.	1839,	Do. 1,700
Do.	1840,	Do. 3,400
Do.	1841,	Do. 6,000
Do.	1842,	Do. 8,000
Do.	1843,	Do. 10,000
Do.	1844,	Do. 12,000
Do.	1847,	Do. 19,000

In all these returns, it will be seen that the increase in the first four years is considerably greater in proportion than at later periods; this was caused by the very large introductions of stock that took place in the early days of the colony, more especially from New South Wales; which latter colony is said to have received for stock alone, little short of a million sterling in the course of five years.

Colonel Gawler, shortly after his arrival in the colony, entered upon many extensive public works, viz:—a new Government House, a Custom House, Jail, Hospital, &c.: roads and streets were also begun to be formed. With the limited supply of labour in the colony, the extensive capital in the hands of many settlers, and the high price of provisions, this proceeding had the effect of raising wages to the most exorbitant rates, mechanics obtaining as much as fourteen and fifteen shillings per day, and common labourers eight and ten shillings. Everything combined to induce the most inordinate speculation, and the Lieutenant Governor seemed to partake in the feeling, for he increased

the expenditure from £8,954 for the quarter ending 31st March 1839, to £34,291 for the quarter ending December 31st of the same year. Agriculture was neglected,—with a population of upwards of twelve thousand persons, there were not in 1839 twelve hundred acres of land actually under cultivation. The upper classes remained in the town of Adelaide, in the expectation of realizing fortunes by speculation, and the lower classes followed their example in order to indulge *ad libitum* in drink, which their high wages enabled them to obtain.

The mania continued from the close of 1839 to the beginning of 1841, during which period Colonel Gawler had been still further increasing his expenditure, until for the last quarter of 1840, it actually amounted to £60,155 14*s.* 4*d.*

Having exhausted all the funds derivable from the ordinary revenue and the land sales, Colonel Gawler commenced drawing on the Commissioners at home, who, unable to meet such overwhelming demands, dishonoured the bills, which were returned. In consequence, the Governor was recalled, Captain Grey being appointed in his stead, and the Commissioners were discharged by the Colonial Secretary as an inefficient body. On the returned bills arriving in the colony, a complete panic seized the public; mercantile credit was put an end to as soon as that of the Government was found wanting, and ruin descended upon all. Adelaide became deserted; its busy crowds fled to the country or left the colony, and those who had the means turned to the cultivation of the soil, whilst not a few were thrown on public charity for support. The dishonoured bills of the Government sank to a

great discount; property of every kind was disposed of for a tithe of its value, and nearly half the houses in Adelaide were left without tenants.

Captain Grey arrived as Lieutenant Governor in May 1841, about the time of Colonel Gawler's recall. The instructions he had received were most stringent, and he immediately set about reducing the expenditure, which on his arrival was proceeding at the rate of £160,000 per annum.

In March 1841, the House of Commons voted £155,000 towards the liquidation of Colonel Gawler's dishonoured bills, and a further sum of £59,936 was placed upon the estimates for 1842. The sum of £85,000, which had originally been borrowed by the London Board of Commissioners, at the rate of ten per cent. interest per annum, was guaranteed by the consolidated fund, the interest payable on it being reduced to three and a half per cent., until the colonial revenues would be in a position to resume its payments.

In the Session of Parliament of 1842, an Act was passed for the better Government of South Australia. This Act finally adjusted monetary difficulties: the two sums already voted were transformed into free grants, the £85,000 regulated as stated above, and a balance of upwards of £30,000, which Colonel Gawler had left unsettled in the colony, provided for by an issue of debentures bearing five per cent. interest, and secured on the revenues of the colony.

On Captain Grey's first arrival, he found the revenue in such a state, and the credit of the Government sunk so low, that he was compelled to apply to Sir George Gipps,

then Governor of New South Wales, for a loan of £3,000. Having obtained that sum, he devoted the entire energies of his active mind to a thorough reformation and reduction in every department of the executive, and with such success as soon to make the revenue receipts bear some proportion to the expenditure.

In 1841, although the colony was in anything but a prosperous state, there were no less than 7,651 acres of land sold which realized £1 per acre as the uniform price. There was in 1842 a much larger quantity disposed of, namely 17,081 acres at the same standard price of £1 per acre. The year 1843 was the climax of the colony's distress, and only £613 was paid for land in that year.

In 1844 the mineral discoveries first attracted attention, raised all from despondency, and threw a bright gleam of hope over the future, and the prospects of the land fund. For the three years ending 1847 the land sales were as follows:—

In 1844 there were sold	3,428 acres	for	£5,666
„ 1845 „ „	69,658 „	„	£72,902
„ 1846 „ „	31,000 „	„	£75,000

The sales for 1845 and 1846 included some special surveys of 20,000 acres each, which had been taken at the upset price of £1 per acre, for the sake of the mineral wealth supposed to exist upon them. By a despatch of Lord Grey, it would appear that no more special surveys are to be granted, but that all lands are to be submitted to public competition by auction, both for the purpose of obtaining the highest price for them, and in order to give all desirous of purchasing an equal opportunity of bidding

for and acquiring such as they may be anxious to obtain.

But it must not be supposed that the lands of South Australia have been of late solely purchased for the sake of their mineral wealth; much has been disposed of where no minerals were considered to exist, and solely for agricultural purposes. Amongst the population of the colony, there are a considerable number of German agriculturists, and these have mostly succeeded in acquiring small farms where they not only raise grain, vegetables, &c, but cultivate the vine, palma Christi, and mulberry; but as yet sufficient time has not elapsed fully to develop the results of these experiments. Tobacco has also been grown by some cultivators on a small scale, and appears to succeed well: no doubt it may be grown to any extent, the climate and soil being nearly similar to the Hunter's River district in New South Wales where it has answered so well.

The disposition of the German population leads them to acquire as soon as possible a homestead and farm of their own: they dislike remaining in a state of servitude and dependance on others for their daily bread, and to this is attributable the extent of cultivatiou in South Australia, and the cheapness of grain; these small cultivators being able to produce at a much lower rate than large landholders, who rely solely on the labour of others.

This formation of a yeoman class must greatly tend to promote the prosperity of the colony, and in this class of its population South Australia is decidedly before its Australian neighbours, when the number of inhabitants is relatively taken into consideration. Both in New South Wales and Australia Felix there seems to be a desire that

only two classes should exist, viz:—the great landholder and stock proprietor, and the mechanic and labourer. This is much to be deprecated, and it speaks well for South Australia that the principle is not enforced there. It is a striking fact that although the population of South Australia has not doubled within the last seven years, yet the extent of land actually under cultivation has increased nearly fifteen-fold within the same period.

In 1840 the population were about 14,000 in number; the census for 1846 is given in another place and will show the returns at that period.

The land under cultivation in South Australia was in

1840		number of acres			2,503
1841	,,	,,	,,	,,	6,722
1842	,,	,,	,,	,,	19,790
1843	,,	,,	,,	,,	28,690
1844	,,	,,	,,	,,	26,918
1845	,,	,,	,,	,,	26,218
1846	,,	,,	,,	,,	33,292

The enclosed land, at the date of the last of these returns, appears to have been about 90,000 acres.

The years 1844 and 1845 exhibit a small falling off from the returns of 1843, but this was owing partly to the scarcity of labour, and partly to the want of a market whither to send produce. The repeal of the Corn Laws in Great Britain has opened the home markets, and a field is now presented of which the colonists will not fail to take advantage. At present, South Australia and Van Dieman's Land wheat bears a high character in the London markets, and is quoted at the same price as the best Dantzic, which on an average is fully ten per cent. higher than the

best home-grown wheat. The Mauritius also presents a near and good market for Australian wheat, and considerable exports have within the last twelve months been made, not only thither but also to the Cape of Good Hope, where the prices of produce have been much enhanced on account of the Caffre war, which, while it raged in that colony, withdrew a portion of the population from their field labours.

The imports and exports of South Australia, before 1841, would be of no interest, as they would form no basis on which to ground an estimate of the position of the colony. It had only been four years settled; and as there was a continued influx of population with all their property, which many brought in goods and merchandize, the imports were, of course, large, and out of all proportion with any exports that the colonists had time to produce. The following is the return for the last six years, down to 1846:—

IMPORTS.

Into South Australia	for	1841,	in value,	£229,925
Do.	do.	1842,	do.	169,533
Do.	do.	1843,	do.	93,148
Do.	do.	1844,	do.	106,660
Do.	do.	1845,	do.	168,161
Do.	do.	1846,	do.	304,321

EXPORTS.

From South Australia	for	1841,	in value,	£40,561
Do.	do.	1842,	do.	29,079
Do.	do.	1843,	do.	66,160
Do.	do.	1844,	do.	82,268
Do.	do.	1845,	do.	131,800
Do.	do.	1846,	do.	287,059

Thus it will be seen, that in 1846, the amount of exports only fell short of the imports by about £17,000; but the reverse would have been the case, and the balance sheet largely in favour of the colonists, had it not been for the very large importations of machinery in that year for the purpose of working new mines.

The rapid and extraordinary increase of exports, from £40,561 to £287,059, could by no possibility have resulted, in six years, from farming or pastoral pursuits; their mineral wealth was the cause of it. From a state of despair or, at least, of lethargy; in debt—nay worse—reduced to bankruptcy, brought on by over-speculation and bad government, that important discovery of their unbounded possession of the richest copper ores, raised them in a short period to the summit of prosperity, and put them on the high road to future greatness.

In 1842, Mr. Williams, in the House of Commons, recommended the abandonment of the colony, calling it a useless burthen. Now, in 1847, within five years from that suggestion, South Australia has become the wealthiest colony under the Crown, in proportion to the extent of its population; and the ultimate effects of its mining operations on British commerce and mineral property in England are, at present, inconceivable, and must be left to time to develop. What the exports of South Australia will be in the course of a very few years, it would be folly to attempt to predict, but the last return offers, we are convinced, a faint shadow of their immensity.

Of old, when the nobles of Spain left their native land in search of the gold mines of the New World, the minds of their fellow countrymen were excited to the most ex-

travagant ideas by the probable result, and all sought eagerly to partake in these expeditions, although they were attended with much danger. But now that the copper mines of South Australia open a prospect of wealth as great as ever could be realized from the exertions of the Spaniard amidst the gold mines of Peru and Chili, there are comparatively few persons to be found in England ready or willing to embark in an undertaking so full of promise.

ABSTRACT RETURN OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT PORT ADELAIDE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1846.

IMPORTS.

	£.	s.	d.
Total Imports	115,567	3	4
Imports re-exported . . .	4,809	10	0
Imports consumed in the colony .	£110,757	13	4

EXPORTS.

	£.	s.	d.
Total Exports	128,490	14	6
Imports re-exported . . .	4,809	10	0
Exports the produce of the colony .	£123,681	4	6

ROBERT R. TORRENS.

The following is the return of imports and exports for the second quarter of 1847. It must be borne in mind that the first quarter of the year is the great exporting season, more especially as regards wool.

CUSTOMS' RETURNS.

RETURN OF EXPORTS, PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, DURING THE QUARTER ENDED 5TH OF JULY, 1847.

Article.	Quantity.	Value.		
		£.	s.	d.
Bacon and Ham .	7 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs.	58	0	0
Beef and Pork . .	100 cwt.	83	0	0
Butter . . .	12 cwt.	70	0	0
Corn, viz.: Barley .	1 quarter	5	0	0
Bran .	677 ,,	393	0	0
Wheat .	4,669 ,,	9,115	0	0
" Flour	135 tons 10 cwt.	1,652	0	0
Cheese	12 cwt.	35	0	0
Gum . . .	653 cwt.	413	0	0
Hay . . .	2 tons 11 cwt.	15	0	0
Hides . . .	155 cwt.	135	0	0
Leather . . .	38 cwt. 2 qrs.	130	0	0
Lead, Pig . .	3 tons	90	0	0
Ore—Copper . .	1,925 tons 7 cwt. 1 qr.	39,449	0	0
Lead . .	76 t. 9 c. 1 qr. 25lbs.	1,147	0	0
Plants . . .	—	10	0	0
Specimens Nat. Hist.	—	21	0	0
Wine . . .	25 gallons	5	0	0
Wool . . .	17,622lbs.	3,810	13	0
		£56,636	13	0

ROBERT TORRENS, Collector.

ABSTRACT RETURN OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT PORT ADELAIDE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1847.

IMPORTS.

	£	s.	d.
Total Imports	111,719	8	6
Imports re-exported . . .	26,922	0	0
Imports consumed in the colony .	£84,797	8	6

EXPORTS.	£	s.	d.
Total Exports	83,628	13	0
Imports re-exported . . .	26,992	0	0
Exports the produce of the colony .	£56,636	13	0

ROBERT TORRENS, Collector.

Thoroughly successful in his endeavours at reform and curtailment, Captain Grey's administration had the effect of extricating the Colony from the most serious embarrassments, and of promoting the legitimate course of profitable industry. As already mentioned, Capt. Grey arrived in the Colony in 1841, and he left it in October, 1845 (being succeeded by Major Robe, the present Governor), to assume the reins of government in New Zealand, to which position he was promoted in consequence of the success of his administration in South Australia. Previous to his departure, the prosperity of the Colony had assumed a firm basis; the exports were rapidly increasing; the expenditure had been reduced from £180,000 to £30,000 per annum, and the revenue was in a flourishing state. The mineral discoveries had been effected, and a special survey of 20,000 acres taken out for mining purposes; the land revenue also bade fair soon to yield large returns, which expectations have been fulfilled since Capt. Grey's departure. The following are the revenue and expenditure returns for six years.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1841 .	£26,720 .	£104,471
1842 .	22,074 .	54,444
1843 .	24,142 .	29,842
1844 .	27,878 .	29,453
1845 .	37,180 .	31,752
1846 .	48,015 .	36,971

The following is a detailed return of the receipts and expenditure of the Colony, for the quarter ending June 30, 1847. It exhibits a large increase in the receipts, and in consequence of the prosperity of the province, the interest on the debt of £85,000 has been resumed by it, and the Consolidated Fund relieved from the burthen.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ABSTRACT OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1847.

RECEIPTS—FIXED.

Customs—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Spirits imported	4,711	17	9			
Wines imported	411	19	0			
Tobacco imported	2,016	16	4			
Other goods imported	5,853	3	10			
Warehouse rents	285	8	8			
Incidental receipts	10	0	0			
	13,289	5	7			
Deduct drawbacks and repayments	379	3	9			
				12,910	1	10
Postage of letters				341	3	7
Fines and Fees—						
Fines from Police Magistrate's Court	46	18	9			
„ District Magistrates	7	15	6			
Fees from Supreme Court	45	18	7			
„ Insolvent Court	43	2	6			
„ Registry Office	310	3	9			
„ Resident Magistrate's Court	77	13	0			
„ District Courts	23	9	0			
„ Police Magistrate's Court.	17	8	0			
Carry forward	£572	9	1			

Brought forward	£572	9	1			
Fees from Sheriff	55	15	3			
„ Clerk to the Bench	14	18	6			
„ Inspector of Slaughter Houses	192	15	0			
„ Colonial Secretary's Office	2	12	6			
				838	10	4
Assessment on Stock				208	0	2
Licenses—						
Publicans' General	375	0	0			
Storekeepers'	20	0	0			
				395	0	0
Certificates—						
Attorneys	5	0	0			
Medical Practitioners	1	1	0			
				6	1	0
Auction Duty				455	4	2
Storage of Gunpowder				39	19	6
Tolls				63	10	0
City Rates				18	13	4
Total Fixed				£15,276	3	11

RECEIPTS—INCIDENTAL.

Rents of Government Property	266	5	0			
Surcharges recovered	18	0	0			
Repayments	24	7	4			
Miscellaneous	1	10	4			
Total Incidental				310	2	8
				15,586	6	7

LAND FUND.

Proceeds of the sale of Crown Land	8,017	6	0			
Rents of land temporarily leased	8	3	0			
Licenses to depasture stock	245	0	0			
„ cut timber	190	0	0			
Balance of debt due by revenue	2,820	2	9			
Total Land Fund Receipts				11,280	11	9
General Total of Receipts				£26,866	18	4

EXPENDITURE—FIXED.

	£	s.	d.
Governor	375	0	0
Civil Establishment—			
Governor's Establishment	91	7	1
Councils	252	5	2
Colonial Secretary's Department	497	13	4
Colonial Treasurer's Department	158	6	8
Auditor General's Department	102	12	6
Customs' Department	603	4	1
Commissioner of Crown Lands' Department	175	10	0
Surveyor General's Department	627	16	6
Colonial Engineer's Department	220	7	9
Post Office Department	201	1	7
Harbour Department	589	6	5
Colonial Storekeeper	50	0	0
Out-stations	195	6	8
Police Department	2,363	10	9
Medical Department	80	4	8
Lunatic Asylum	92	16	6
Aborigines' Department	471	14	1
Judicial Establishments—			
Supreme Court	1,094	14	7
Bench of Magistrates	37	10	0
Coroner	92	11	0
Advocate General's Department	156	14	6
Colonial Chaplain	87	10	0
Religious and Educational purposes	585	6	0
Miscellaneous—			
Maintenance of Destitute Poor — £154 6 11			
Unforeseen Expenses — 863 3 8			
Public Works and Improvements — 1,877 4 11			
Town Surveyor, and Street Repairs — 1,466 16 10			
Debts of the Corporation of Adelaide — 58 16 9			
	4,420	9	1
Total Fixed	£13,722	19	2

INCIDENTAL.

Repayment to Land Fund balance of debt . .	2,820	2	9
	£16,543	1	11

LAND FUND.

Remitted to England through the Commissariat for Emigration purposes	£10,000	0	0
Payments made on account of Emigrants, per *Phœbe* . . .	178	4	0
Theresa . .	1,345	14	9
Isabella Watson .	6	0	0
Survey and Management of Waste Lands	173	5	3
Roads and Bridges . . .	712	0	8
Aborigines (Arrears of 1846-7) .	138	19	1
Total Land Fund Expenditure .	12,554	3	9
General Total of Expenditure .	£29,097	5	8

W. H. MATURIN, Auditor-General.

Audit Office, Adelaide, South Australia,
24th August, 1847.

The rapid increase in the growth of wool in South Australia has been remarkable, although perhaps not so much so as in Australia Felix. The following are the returns for five years :—

1842	Value of wool exported to Great Britain	£29,749	0	0
1843	. . . . .	45,568	9	8
1844	. . . . .	42,769	15	9
1845	. . . . .	72,235	0	0
1846	. . . . .	105,941	0	0

The decrease apparent in 1844 is attributable not to any failure in production, but to the period at which the wool was shipped, the season being at the close and commencement of each year.

Compelled, previously to 1840, to import nearly the whole of the grain necessary for her consumption, the decrease is most remarkable in these imports from the period Capt. Grey assumed office, and tend to exhibit the increased industry of the people. For three years the imports of grain, flour, &c., were as follows :—

1841	The three last quarters, value . .	£53,202	0	0
1842	The entire year . .	29,682	15	6
1843	" " . .	3,519	2	0

In the latter year the colony became an exporting country, shipping about £15,000 worth of grain of various kinds, and ever since the grain exports have continued largely to increase. In 1844 and 1845, wheat was sold in the colony as low as 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per bushel.

There are two banking concerns in South Australia, both of which of course have their chief office at Adelaide, viz., the Bank of South Australia, and the Bank of Australasia. The former confines its operations to this colony, but the latter has establishments in all the Australian colonies. It is remarkable how greatly the circulation of South Australia has increased within the last three years. In May, 1843, the entire circulation of both banks was £10,998 5*s.* 9*d.*; in 1846 it stood thus :—

Bank of South Australia .	£15,953	19	3
Bank of Australasia . .	6,536	5	5
	£22,490	4	8

In May, 1847, a still further increase was exhibited in the circulation, that of the Bank of South Australia amounting to £21,493 11*s.* 7*d.*, and that of the Bank of Australasia being proportionately progressive.

A large portion of the business of both concerns consists in matters of Exchange and the discount of bills drawn on England against produce shipped thither. The amount of cash deposited in the Bank of South Australia alone, on current account, is remarkable, and indicates the great prosperity of such a small community. The following is the half yearly return of the Bank of South Australia.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF THE BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Half yearly statement of the average weekly amount of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank of South Australia, in the Province of South Australia, from the 1st December, 1846, to the 31st May, 1847, both days inclusive.

Liabilities.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Notes in circulation not bearing interest	20,187	13	1
Bills in circulation not bearing interest	1,305	18	6
Carried over . . .	£21,493	11	7

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward . .	21,493	11	7
Bills and notes in circulation bearing interest . . .	0	0	0
Balances due to other banks and agents	2,532	0	7
Cash deposited not bearing interest	52,751	5	3
Cash deposited bearing interest	13,017	6	7
Total Liabilites . .	£89,794	4	0

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Gold, silver, and other metals .	77,812	18	4
Landed property (bank premises, &c., &c.)	6,896	2	0
Bills of other banks . .	0	0	0
Balances due from other banks and agents	5,863	2	2
Debts due to the bank including bills, notes, &c., &c. . .	163,926	15	7
Total Assets .	£254,498	18	1

The following are the rates of Exchange at which this Bank does business.

THE BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Draw bills on London at 30 days' sight, at 3 per cent. premium.

Purchase bills on London at 30 days' sight, at par.

From 30 days' sight to 60 days' sight, at ½ per cent. discount.

From 60 days' to 90 days', at 1½ per cent. discount.

If drawn out of London (but payable in London), ⅛ per cent discount.

If payable out of London, ½ per cent. additional.

Draw bills on Sydney, Hobart Town, Launceston, Melbourne, and Portland, at 3 per cent. premium; and purchase on same places at 30 days' sight, at par.

Draw bills on Swan River, at 2 per cent. premium; and purchase at 30 days' sight, at 3 per cent. discount.

Much the greater portion of the banking business of the Colony is transacted by the Bank of South Australia, owing to its more intimate and limited relations with South Australia alone; the increase of business in this concern has been very great within the last three years. In 1845, the circulation was £11,094 4*s.* 3*d.*; cash deposited, £43,699 14*s.* 11*d.*; specie, £20,185 9*s.* 0*d.*; debts, £141,599 10*s.* 3*d.* In 1846, the returns showed, circulation, £15,953 19*s.* 3*d.*; cash deposited, £59,719 5*s.* 9*d.*; specie, £39,462 10*s.* 0*d.*; debts, £130,993 7*s.* 5*d.*

The monetary system of South Australia now shows itself in a most healthy state; what is most remarkable, being the large increase in bullion, as exhibited by the returns of 1847. This is far different to what it was a few years ago, when Governor Gawler was spending officially £180,000 per annum.

Population of South Australia according to the census taken in April, 1846. The different districts and their population are set out separately. City of Adelaide, north and south, total 7,413 ; or,

	Males.	Females.	Total.
South Adelaide	2,902	2,668	5,570
North Adelaide	929	914	1,843
Milner Special Survey . . .	706	493	1,194
North of Gawler Town . .	348	110	458
Wakefield and Hutt Rivers . .	631	131	762
Moorundo	58	8	66
Wellington	93	12	105
Mount Crawford . . .	320	210	530
Little Para River . . .	462	369	831
Port Adelaide	816	713	1,529
South-West of Adelaide . .	965	892	1,857
South-East of Adelaide . .	683	584	1,272
East and North-East of Adelaide	526	443	969
Sturt and Onkaparinga Rivers .	212	176	388
O'Halloran Hill, &c., &c. . .	392	320	712
South of Onkaparinga . .	334	248	582
Sources of Onkaparinga . .	780	672	1,452
Medow's Special Survey . .	301	243	544
Finniss and Angas's Special Survey	308	167	475
Encounter Bay	158	107	265
Port Lincoln	85	47	132
Kangaroo Island . . .	...	...	70
North of Rivoli Bay . . .	230	21	251
South of Rivoli Bay . . .	248	15	263
Yankalilla	91	47	138
Cape Jervis	92	40	132
Total . .	12,670	9,650	22,390

The following is the number of each religious persuasion:—

Church of England	11,945
Church of Scotland	1,958
Lutheran Church (chiefly Germans)	1,524
Wesleyan Methodists	2,246
Other Protestant Dissenters	2,888
Roman Catholics	1,649
Jews	58
Mahommedans and Pagans	52

The married males amount to 3,847; married females, 3,811; the single males, 8,823; single females, 5,839.

The adult males from twenty-one and upwards number 6,814; those between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one, 1,088. The females above fourteen amount to 5,136.

In order still further to develope the position of the population of this interesting and rich colony, it may be as well to give the occupations, as returned in the census of 1846:—

Occupation.	
Land proprietors, merchants, bankers, and stock-holders	1,152
Clerks and overseers to the above	162
Professional persons	109
Clerks and assistants to the above	35
Manufacturers, brewers, millers	82
Clerks and assistants to the above	46

Shopkeepers and retail dealers	338
Clerks and assistants to the above	160
Brickmakers	77
Bricklayers	83
Smiths	152
Carpenters and joiners	362
Masons	92
Shoemakers	225
Cabinet-makers	24
Plasterers	38
Harness-makers	19
Tailors	62
Tanners	19
Miners	269
Sawyers and splitters	240
Shepherds and others in charge of sheep	1,120
Stock-men and others in charge of cattle	215
Carriers and their assistants	134
Gardeners, farm-servants, and persons employed in agriculture	1,492
Mariners and fishermen	85
Domestic servants	818
Labourers not included in the above definitions	726
All other persons not included in the above	13,993

The number of houses in the entire colony were, according to the census: Stone or brick, 1,715; wood, 1,272; temporary dwellings and tents, 1,189; total, 4,176.

From April, 1846, to June, 1847, the colony could not have received a less accession by immigration and

casual passengers from Britain and the colonies, than four thousand persons. A large number of these were miners, much required to work the inexhaustible wealth that discoveries of ores of the richest quality made every month more apparent.

The rates of wages payable in the colony are considerable, when the price of provisions is taken into account.

House-rent is only paid in the town, for in the country a hut is soon erected. Many of the pastoral servants live throughout the year in tents, or under a tarpaulin erected on a few forked sticks; and they suffer no inconvenience from the weather, owing to the salubrity of the climate. The following were the rates of wages general in the colony in September, 1847:—

Blacksmiths—30*s.* to 35*s.* weekly, well employed.

Bricklayers—6*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per day, ditto.

Carpenters—6*s.* to 7*s.* per day, ditto.

Masons—6*s.* to 7*s.* per day, ditto.

Labourers—15*s.* to 25*s.* weekly.

Shoemakers and *Bootmakers* earn from 30*s.* to 45*s.* per week, and find plenty of employment.

Shepherds are much in request, at wages varying according to distance, from 10*s.* to 12*s.* per week, with weekly rations, consisting of 10 lbs. flour, 10 lbs. fresh meat, 2 lbs. sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea.

Hutkeepers—6*s.* to 8*s.* per week, with the like rations.

Farm Labourers are readily engaged at from 10*s.* to 14*s.* per week, according to ability, with rations above-mentioned, and opportunities of earning more at harvest time.

Tinsmiths find plenty of work; and those who employ journeymen give them 30*s.* per week or more.

Domestic Servants are in great request for respectable service, at £14 to £18 a-year, many being engaged weekly or monthly, at rates varying from 5*s.* to 7*s.* per week, all with board and lodging, of course.

Cooks, or other male domestic servants, get £18 to £25 per annum, with board and lodging. Liveries are rare, but free living is not so.

Miners employed on owners' account get 25*s.* to 30*s.* per week, but really experienced men engaged upon tribute and tut work have frequent opportunities of earning considerably more.

The demand for mechanics and tradesmen is limited, for a great proportion of the clothes consumed are imported ready made. Those generally in request are carpenters, blacksmiths, and shoe and boot makers, but the persons really in demand are miners, shepherds, farm labourers, and domestic servants, more especially strong young females.

Adelaide Markets, 4th September, 1847.

Farm Produce.—Wheat, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 3*d.* per bushel; fine flour, £12 per ton; seconds ditto, £10; oats, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; English barley, 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*; Cape do., 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.*; pollard, £6 10*s.* per ton, or 1*s.* 6*d.* per bushel of 20 lbs.; bran, 1*s.* 3*d.* per bushel; malt, 7*s.* per bushel. The 2 lb. loaf, 3*d.*

Poultry and Dairy Produce.—Fowls, 3*s.* to 4*s.* per couple; ducks, 5*s.* per pair; turkeys, 5*s.* to 8*s.* each; geese, 6*s.* to 7*s.* each; pigeons, 1*s.* 6*d.* per pair; butter,

10*d.* to 1*s.* per lb.; bacon, 8*d.* to 10*d.*; hams, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*; pork, 6*d.* to 8*d.*; lard, 8*d.*; sausages, 8*d.* per lb.; cheese, 8*d.* to 1*s.*; eggs, 10*d.* per dozen.

Butchers' Meat.—Beef, 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb.; mutton, 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb.; lamb, 1*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* per quarter; veal, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; calves' heads, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* each; ditto feet, 8*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per set; tripe, 6*d.* per lb.

Vegetables.—Potatoes, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* per cwt., or 1*d.* per lb.; cabbages, 1*s.* 6*d.* per doz.; green peas, 3*s.* 6*d.* per peck; onions, 6*d.* per lb.; carrots, 3*d.* per bunch; turnips, 4*d.* per dozen; chillies, 2*d.* to 4*d.* per dozen; celery, 4*d.* to 6*d.* per head; leeks, 6*d.* to 1*s.* per bundle.

Hay.—Oaten hay, £2 15*s.* to £3 5*s.* per ton; meadow ditto, £2 to £2 10*s.*

Cattle.—Fat oxen, 14*s.* to 16*s.* per 100 lbs., sinking the fat and offal; working steers, £4 to £5; dairy cows, £2 to £4; calves, £1 to £1 5*s.* each; sheep, 5*s.* to 7*s.*

Fruit.—Apples, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; grapes, 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; pomegranates, 6*d.* to 9*d.* each.

Adelaide, September 4, 1847.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Articles of Export.

Bacon	per lb.	6*d.* to 7*d.*
Bark	per ton	
Barley	bushel	3*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*
Barleymeal	50 lbs.	
Beef	tierces	55*s.*
Biscuit	cwt.	14*s.* to 18*s.*
Bran	bushel	1*s.* 1*d.*
Bricks	1000	40*s.*

Butter, salted	per lb.	10*d.*
Candles, moulds	do.	7*d.*
——— dips	do.	6*d.*
Cheese	do.	6*d.* to 10*d.*
Flour, fine	per ton	£12
——— seconds	do.	£10
Gum	do.	
Gum timber	per load	
Hay	per ton	£2 15*s.* to £3 10*s.*
Hides	each	6*s.* to 10*s.*
Maize	per bushel	(none)
Oats	do.	3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*
Oxen	each	£1 10*s.* to £3 10*s.*
Pollard	per 20 lbs	1*s.* 2*d.*
Potatoes	per ton	£7 to £8
Sheep, fat	each	10*s.* to 14*s.*
Slates	per 1,000	
——— slabs	per foot	
Starch	per lb.	5*d.*
Tallow	per cwt.	36*s.* to 40*s.*
Wheat	per bushel	4*s.* 6*d.*
Wool, 1st quality	per lb.	Nominal
——— 2nd quality	do.	
——— in grease	do.	
Whalebone	per ton	

Imported Goods.

Ale, light	per hhd.	(none)
——— strong	per barrel.	(none)
——— bottled	per dozen.	10*s.*
Bags, 3-bushel	each	1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*
Blue	per lb.	1*s.* 4*d.*
Candles, wax	do.	3*s.*
——— sperm	do.	1*s.* 6*d.*
——— moulds	do.	6*d.*
Canvas	per bolt	40*s.* to 48*s.*
Casks	per tun	45*s.*

Cedar, in log	per foot	3*d.*
——— in boards	do.	3½*d.* to 4*d.*
Cigars, Manilla, in bond	per 1000	52*s.* to 60*s.*
Coals	per ton	30*s.* to 40*s.*
Coffee	per cwt.	45*s.* to 60*s.*
Copper, sheathing	per lb.	1*s.* 4*d.*
——— nails	lb.	3*s.*
Cordage, English	per cwt.	56*s.* to 60*s.*
——— Manilla	do.	50*s.* to 54*s.*
Corrosive Sublimate	per lb.	5*s.* 6*d.*
Crystals of Soda	per cwt.	10*s.* 6*d.*
Currants	per lb.	7*d.*
Deals, 9 by 3	per foot	6*d.*
—— 11 by 3	do.	
Figs	per lb.	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Ginger, Jamaica	do.	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*
——— E. I.	do.	4*d.* to 8*d.*
Glass, 10 by 12	per box	
Glue	per lb.	7*d.*
Gunpowder, fine	do.	3*s.*
——— blasting	do.	9*d.*
Hams, Yorkshire	do.	(none)
——— Colonial	do.	
Herrings, red	per keg	
——— pickled	p. ½-barl.	30*s.*
Hops	per lb.	12*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Iron, bar, assorted	per ton	£14 10*s.*
—— hoop	do.	£18.
—— nail rod	do.	£20.
—— pig	do.	(none)
—— sheet	do.	£30.
Isinglass	per lb.	
Lead, sheet	per ton	£27 to £29.
Molasses	per cwt.	12*s.* to 14*s.*
Mustard	p. doz. lbs.	21*s.*
Nails, assorted	per cwt.	21*s.* to 42*s.*
Oil, sperm	per gal.	5*s.*

Oil, blac	per ton	£22 10*s.*
—— linseed	per gal.	4*s.* 6*d.*
—— olive, quarts	per doz.	35*s.*
Pepper, black	per lb.	3½*d.*
——— white	do.	5*d.*
Pickles, assorted, pints	per doz.	15*s.*
Pitch	per barl.	40*s.* (scarce)
Ploughs, Scotch	each	£6 6*s.*
Porter, London	per hhd.	£7.
——— bottled	per doz.	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Raisins, Cape	per lb.	3½*d.* to 4*d.*
——— Muscatel	do.	8*d.*
Rice	per cwt.	18*s.*
Resin	do.	12*s.* to 16*s.*
Sago	do.	25*s.* to 28*s.*
Salt, Liverpool	per ton	£5.
—— basket	per doz.	5*s.*
Soap, London, 1st quality	per ton	(none)
—— Liverpool	do.	(none)
—— Colonial	do.	£32 (scarce)
Spirits in Bond—		
Brandy, best brands	per gal.	10*s.* to 13*s.*
Geneva	do.	5*s.* 6*d.*
Ditto, 4 gallon cases	per case	26*s.*
Rum, W. I.	per gal.	5*s.* to 6*s.*
Whisky	do.	10*s.*
Starch, London	per lb.	6*d.*
Sugar, Mauritius	per ton	£22 to £27.
—— Manilla, Java, &c.	do.	£24 to £32.
——— refined	per lb.	7½*d.*
Tar, Archangel	per barrel	(none)
—— coal	do.	30*s.*
Tea, hyson-skin	per chest	£5 5*s.*
—— congou	do.	£4 10*s.* to £5 5*s.*
—— Company's ditto	do.	£6 to £9
—— black	per 20-catty box.	25*s.* to 33*s.*
—— gunpowder	per 10-catty box.	38*s.*

Tobacco, in bond, good	per lb.	7*d.* to 1*s.*
Turpentine	per gallen.	4*s.* to 5*s.*
Tin plates, x	per box	50*s.*
—— xx	do.	60*s.*
—— xxx	do.	80*s.*
Vinegar	per gallon.	1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.*
Wines in bond—		
Port	per pipe	£35 to £50
—— bottled	per dozen.	26*s.* to 36*s.*
Sherry	per butt	£30 to £43
——— bottled	per dozen.	18*s.* to 36*s.*
Madeira	per pipe	(none)
——— bottled	per dozen.	(none)
Teneriffe	per qr.-cask	£5
——— bottled	per dozen.	18*s.*
Cape	per 100 gals.	£9
Champagne.	per dozen.	50*s.*
Claret.	do.	20*s.*
Wool-Bagging	per yard	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Woolpacks	each	Nominal.

FREIGHTS.

To London.—Ores, 50*s.* to £4 per ton; wool, 1¼*d.* per lb.; wheat, 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel of 60 lbs.; oil, £5 to £5 10*s.* per ton; measurement goods, £5.

To Swansea.—Ores, £4 10*s.* per ton.

To Mauritius.—Wheat, 1*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; flour, 50*s.* per ton.

To Sydney.—Heavy goods, 15*s.* per ton; wheat, 6*d.* per bushel; measurement goods, 17*s.* 6*d.* to £1 per ton.

To Van Dieman's Land.—From 16*s.* to 30*s.* per ton.

CHAPTER II.

CROWN LANDS REGULATIONS—IMPOSITION OF ROYALTY TAX UPON MINERALS—EVILS OF SUCH A TAX—MINING AND MINERAL WEALTH—PROGRESS OF OCCUPATION—SCARCITY OF SURFACE WATER—THE RIVER MURRAY AND LAKE ALEXANDRINA.

ALTHOUGH the Acts of Parliament, passed from time to time for the regulation of the Crown Lands of Australasia generally, have been made applicable to South Australia as well as the other colonies, yet it is a breach of agreement between the Colonial Office and the colonists, as, on its original settlement, there was a special arrangement entered into with regard to them. By this arrangement the entire colony was to be thrown open for settlement, and the waste Crown Lands were to be disposed of in fee, by auction, at not less than a fixed minimum price. There was no reservation as to limit, extent, situation, or minerals; the entire proceeds of the "Land Fund" were to be employed in conveying labour to the colony; and it was specially arranged that the laws applicable to other parts of Australia were not to be enforced in South Australia, which was to be governed by laws framed for itself. Notwithstanding this arrange-

ment, the Crown Lands of South Australia are now administered under the general Australasian Waste Lands Acts, in a similar manner to those of New South Wales, and Australia Felix. The land is put up by public auction, at an upset price of £1 per acre, and sold to the highest bidder, but with a reservation of a royalty-tax of one-fifteenth upon all minerals raised.

The Waste Crown Lands Acts, attached to the end of the present volume, apply to South Australia as well as the other colonies. In order to carry out the amended Act, passed by Parliament in 1846, Orders in Council have been issued to the following effect:—

The Crown Lands are to be divided into three classes; settled, intermediate, and unsettled districts. In the first, leases for a year only are to be given; and purchasers of land, under regulations to be made by the Governor of the colony, are to be allowed to pasture the Crown Lands in their neighbourhood. In the intermediate districts, leases for eight years are to be given; but at the end of each successive year it is competent for the Governor, after giving notice of a certain length, to sell any part of the land, giving the lessee pre-emption. In the unsettled districts, the lease is to be for fourteen years, and the land is not to be sold during that period, except for public purposes—roads, mines, and railways; and should a railway be formed in an unsettled district, the land for two miles on either side of it is to become and be considered as "intermediate" land, and dealt with accordingly. Leases are to be forfeited on non-payment of rent, and no sub-letting or transfer will be acknowledged unless it has, in the first instance, obtained

the sanction of the Executive. The leases of land are to be submitted to public competition by auction, the upset price being fixed by the Governor for the time being.

The annual changes that have taken place in the management of the Crown Lands of the Colony, throw a shade of doubt over the permanence of the new system; but as leases cannot be abrogated at the will of the Government, more reliance can now be felt than under any preceding arrangement. If the Colony continue for fourteen years to prosper as it at present does, its inhabitants may feel perfectly satisfied that their fourteen years' leases will prove to them as valuable as a perpetuity, at the small annual rent they may originally agree to pay; the Crown will probably not have the disposition, and even if it had, it will not have the power, to disturb them in their possessions. Even heretofore, although the squatters and settlers depastured the Crown Lands by right of a license, annually renewable, the land being liable to be sold at any moment, yet they disposed of and bartered the right to the occupation of these lands, and considerable sums were often given for the right to a sheep-station, even when there was no right of tenure. These transfers and sales were illegal, but became the custom of the country; how much more likely therefore are those who obtain leases under the new system, to sell, subdivide, or sublet lands. The very length of their tenure will be an inducement both to buyer and seller; improvements will spring up, houses will arise, land be enclosed, tens of thousands become interested in the permanence and perpetuity of those leases, so that the Government will certainly never be

able to carry out the principle of the new system further than the original granting of the leases. It may be that matters will work better with the eight years' leases, but that is doubtful; however, the yearly leases will be found effective.

Before the promulgation of the late land regulations, and for a short period, twenty-one years' leases were granted, but to no great extent. Special surveys of 20,000 acres would also be obtained, by which means a person depositing £20,000, would become entitled to have that extent of land surveyed and conveyed to him in fee, in whatever part of the country he might think fit. Several special surveys were obtained between 1844 and 1847; indeed, the greater number of the mines at present worked are upon them. The special survey, on which are the Burra Burra and Princess Royal Mines, was the first taken out. Special surveys are now abolished. It was in 1846 that Lieutenant-Governor Robe, with the consent of his Council, first imposed the Royalty Tax of one-fifteenth; and it is only such lands as were since sold that are subject to it: those previously disposed of were conveyed in fee without reservation. It will be seen by the following despatch from the Colonial Secretary, that the imposition of the Royalty Tax was approved of, and that all lands sold hereafter will be subject to it.

ROYALTIES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Adelaide, May 4, 1847.

The Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to direct the publication, for general information, of the following

despatch, dated 30th December, 1846, which his Excellency has recently received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, signifying Her Majesty's Royal confirmation of the Regulations established by his Excellency in Council, on the 3rd March, 1846, reserving to Her Majesty a royalty on all metallic minerals raised from lands thenceforward to be alienated from the Crown.

By his Excellency's command,

A. M. MUNDY,

Colonial Secretary.

(Copy.)

No. 43. *Downing-street, December* 30, 1846.

Sir—I have considered, with the attention due to the importance of the subject, and to the anxiety which it must excite in the colony of South Australia, your despatch No. 16, of the 4th of March last, reporting the new regulations which, with the advice of your Executive Council, you have issued for the purpose of reserving a royalty of one-fifteenth on all minerals raised upon lands sold after the date of those rules.

This question, I am fully aware, is one of no ordinary importance, and not to be determined by considerations of a temporary or a partial nature. The copper ores of South Australia are already considered to be amongst the richest imported into this country from any part of the globe, and traces are said to have been found in the province of some even of the more precious metals.

Under these circumstances, it is probable that the

working of mines will withdraw a large number of hands from other occupations; and hence it is only just to those engaged in agriculture, to whom the high price of labour is already an inconvenience, that mining property should contribute, somewhat in proportion to the amount of labour it absorbs, to the fund by which the expense of introducing immigrants of the labouring class is provided for.

But, assuming that mines are to be made to contribute to the fund, it seems to me that, upon the whole, the best and most convenient mode in which they can be made to do so is by the reservation of a royalty, the proceeds of which are carried to the credit of the Land Fund, and applied to the same objects.

I am aware that this plan may be open to some objections, but to none which seem of equal weight with those which apply to any other method of deriving a revenue from mines which has hitherto been proposed.

One great security against inflicting any practical injury is, to take care that the royalty is not fixed too high. But when I perceive, from some of the former reports, that in England, where mines of every descending degree of productiveness may be assumed to be sought after and worked, mining adventurers commonly afford to pay the owners more than 1-15th of the gross produce, I cannot but hope that such a proportion must be very moderate in an entirely fresh and rich field, such as is presented by South Australia.

Another great mitigation of any inconvenience from royalty would be to convert it, as soon as circumstances would admit, into a fixed pecuniary payment. In the

absence of any other test by which to measure the future claims of the Crown, it was indispensable that they should be based on the gross produce of the mines; and, owing to the fluctuations in this kind of property, it would probably be equally inexpedient for both parties to enter into any commutations, except for short periods.

Much I must leave to your experience and observation on the spot; but I feel little doubt that, as soon as some estimate can be formed of the capabilities of different mines, you will find it advantageous, if the owners offer reasonable terms, to exchange the right to royalties for certain fixed payments in money, provided that the agreement be not made for any lengthened period.

It is objected to a royalty that it will create a distinction between the owners of lands subject to it, and the early settlers, who will hold their lands free from any such payment. This objection I shall have occasion to notice more fully in another despatch. I will merely observe here that each class of purchasers knew beforehand the conditions to which their lands were to be subject, and that recent purchasers must be supposed to have offered no more for their land than they considered it worth, after all deductions to which it was liable.

The best proof that the new regulations are not practically felt as onerous may be found in the result of the first public sale which took place after their promulgation. At that sale I perceive that, whilst £1 per acre had hitherto been the ordinary upset price of lands in the colony, some land was bid up to a price of £88 per acre, and that the whole thirty sections comprised in the sale were sold at an average price of more than £10 per acre.

I have now adverted to some of the principal grounds on which I am enabled to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation of the new regulations adopted by yourself and the Council, and I trust that, on consideration, it may be felt in the colony that, by providing for a continued supply of labour, the measure is very important to the interests of all classes in the existing community, besides being better adapted than any other to provide, without fresh taxation, for any increased demands created by the future prosperity of South Australia.

In transmitting to you, however, this general approval of the regulations, I need scarcely observe that the provision for granting leases for twenty-one years will have to be altered from the date when the Land Sales Amendment Act, 9 and 10 Vic., cap. 104, came into force in the colony. This Act only allows of leases for fourteen years, but as its operation would not commence until it was proclaimed by you, it will not interfere with the conditions of any leases which you may have previously granted.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GREY.

Lieutenant-Governor Robe,
&c., &c., &c.

On the publication of the foregoing the Colonists were highly indignant, as the result was most unexpected, even by such as had purchased lands with the reservation temporarily in force. The following article will best tend to exhibit the ideas of the Colonists. It is extracted from the *South Australian Register*, May 12th, 1847.

"The first feeling produced by the announcement of the confirmation of the Royalty Tax was one of indignation and disappointment:—disappointment, that a Whig Minister should have given effect to a tax which a Tory Secretary of State had been unable to carry through Parliament; and indignation, that the fundamental principle of the colony should have been so needlessly and wantonly violated. But however natural these feelings, their continued indulgence is useless. The matter is one evidently and eminently practical, and the question which the colonists now have to answer for themselves is,—'What is to be done?'

"It has been suggested by a contemporary, that the tax, as at present imposed, is illegal. We confess that we cannot quite agree in his reasonings upon this point, principally because he appears to us to have left out one very important element in the question. The Land Sales Act gives no powers to the Crown or its representatives which it did not formerly possess. That Act was passed in restraint of the prerogative, in order to put an end to the fluctuating and inconsistent practices which had previously prevailed, and to the abuses which the absence of any defined rule had encouraged. The question therefore is, not what powers the Act confers, but what powers it takes away, since every power incident to the ownership of land remains in the Queen, except so far as it is expressly restrained by the Act. And as the clause referred to by our contemporary does not bind the Crown to alienate in fee simple, but authorizes alienation for any less estate or interest, we imagine that the undoubted right of the Crown, independently of

the Act, to reserve a rent payable in money or in kind, and either fixed or varying in proportion to the produce, subsists in Her Majesty, to be exercised in what manner she may think fit. Upon this ground, therefore, we fear that the royalty must be held to possess legal validity.

"And we apprehend that the other objection taken to the reservation, that the deeds in which it is reserved are not in the form prescribed by the royal instructions, would, if insisted upon, produce wider consequences than our contemporary appears to contemplate. We quote from his columns, because we have not the Act before us to which to refer, and we there find the clause that all 'conveyances and alienations of land purchased, shall be made in such forms and with such solemnities as shall from time to time be prescribed by Her Majesty, and being so made shall be valid and effectual."

* * * * * * *

"If our present opinion can be proved to be unsound, and it can be shown that the imposition of royalties is illegal, let the tax be resisted in due form of law. If, on the contrary, it is sanctioned by the letter of the Act, and legal resistance is hopeless, then we shall act most wisely and most effectually by confining ourselves to the means which are undoubtedly at our disposal, and which have often baffled attempts of a similar kind. Passive resistance is well nigh invincible, though we should deeply regret to see any necessity arise for its adoption.

"But we are not yet without hope. We place some confidence in the clear-sightedness and fairness of our present Governor. The promulgation of the regulations

imposing the Royalty Tax was one of his first acts, done at a period when he was comparatively ignorant of the circumstances of the colony, and could not be expected to appreciate the effects of the imposition. But since that period he has had abundant opportunities of obtaining information; and there is one conclusion at which he cannot have failed to arrive,—that never did a Government propose to raise universal odium, and to destroy all public confidence on its justice and its wisdom, upon a ground more palpably inadequate. The question, as he cannot fail to see, assumes two aspects. Either the imposition of a royalty will affect the selling price of land in proportion to the burthen sought to be imposed, and in that case it diminishes instead of augmenting the contribution of mineral lands to the *Emigration Fund*, and is, consequently injurious; or from the combined results of the spirit of competition, and of the uncertain character of the property to be acquired, the full price will be given for their lands, and in that case by ceasing to be injurious it becomes unjust. This is the first and most simple view of the question; and upon this view the argument of Mr. Morphett and the other members of the Council was mainly founded, in their opposition to the Royalty Bill; and the soundness of that view becomes more apparent in proportion as the subject is investigated.

"But there is another point of view in which this tax ought to be regarded. It is similar in its nature, and it will be identical in its operation with the old tithe system in England. If imposed and enforced it will, so far as the yield of the mines is concerned, produce the

same effect as though the quantity and the value of the ore raised were diminished by one-fifteenth. A higher per centage of copper consequently will be required, in order to the profitable working of a mine, and works which might otherwise be profitably undertaken, must, under the pressure of this tax, be abandoned. And since the value of a mine cannot be determined by a mere inspection of the surface, the necessity for abandonment may not be discovered until after a large expenditure has been incurred in the attempt to ascertain its value.

"A royalty is, moreover, in its operation one of the most unequal of taxes. In an easily-worked mine, the imposition would be scarcely felt, but its burthen would increase in proportion to the amount of labour required to procure the ore. It would be easy to give numerous illustrations of this topic, but we will select one, which our readers will at once see is by no means an improbable case, though it may not actually exist at the present moment. It is easy to suppose two mines, so situated that the cost of ore delivered at the port should be the same for each; in one case, however, owing to the distance from the port, and the expense of cartage, and in the other from the difficult nature of the workings, and the increased expense of raising ore, it might well happen, for instance, that a difference of £2 per ton in the cost of the ore at the pit's mouth was equalized by the difference in the price of cartage, resulting from the greater distance of one of the mines. In such a case, it is obvious that the owners of the one mine would be taxed to the extent of £2 per ton upon

every ton taken by the Government more than the other, and that this might, in effect, double the amount of tax. We have selected this merely as illustrative of the principle, and our readers will be able to suggest for themselves many other cases in which a similar injustice would be occasioned. As a tax, therefore, it violates the first and most essential condition of all taxes, equality; and were there no other grounds of objection, this alone would suffice to determine any governor, who desired to do justice, against enforcing it.

"We find that our space will not permit us to notice half the real objections to this tax. We shall content ourselves with one further remark, and we address this to Earl Grey and to the other gentlemen in England, who were instrumental in procuring the adoption—we were about to say of the present system, but we cannot—of the recent system of disposing of land absolutely by sale. These gentlemen can scarcely have forgotten, though it is seventeen years since, that the plan of quit-rents and reservations had been attempted in almost every colony, and that in no single instance had it been found possible to enforce their payment. These burdens upon land had been productive of deep-seated discontent and disaffection; they had created habits of insubordination, and had scattered the seeds of disloyalty; they had struck at the roots of industry by introducing a feeling of insecurity in connexion with the possession of land, but in no case had they augmented the revenues of the colony, or assisted in defraying the expenses of the Government. They were condemned by every one who was acquainted with the subject, either theoretically or

in practice, and they have been abandoned in every colony, without, we believe, a single exception. Among the most strenuous supporters of the new system, which was to supersede these old practices, was the present Earl Grey, then Lord Howick, and Under Secretary for the Colonies. He, it appears, has abandoned his early opinion on this subject, and to him it might perhaps be useless now to appeal; but we call upon all those who took a part in that movement, now to come forward and vindicate their principles against this contemplated recurrence to one of the worst features of the old practice."

Truly, the South Australians have much reason to complain of the imposition. Although it would only take effect on those lands sold since Governor Robe's reservation, yet it would act as a great bar to the prosperity of the colony, not only on account of its amount being $6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. on the gross quantity of ore raised, but on account of the surveillance and annoyance to which its collection would give rise. Indeed, in their management of the mineral interests of New Holland, the Colonial Office have always been particularly unfortunate. Originally, all minerals were reserved to the Crown, the surface only of the land being conveyed to the purchaser. Earl Bathurst, many years since, when Secretary for the Colonies, bestowed upon the Australian Agricultural Company, the monopoly of coal in New South Wales, which the Company yet retain; and, thus legally protected, they prevent private individuals from working it; the total supply of the colony being produced from their mines at Newcastle, at the mouth of Hunter's River. The

burthen and the incubus of this monopoly on the colony are such, that the Legislative Assembly have lately appointed a committee to consider the best mode of obtaining its abrogation.

With the exception of the monopoly of coal, the Crown continued to retain all mineral rights, until Lord John Russell took his seat at the head of the Colonial Board, and then the bad policy of such reservations was acknowledged, and all minerals were conveyed to the purchaser of the fee of the soil. There is no question but that the Crown monopoly of minerals caused the inhabitants to take no interest in their discovery, and this has since been fully shown both in New South Wales and Australia Felix; for many and valuable discoveries have taken place within the last two years, which would not have been the case, or at least made public, if the old monopoly had continued.

In the colony it is considered that Governor Robe now recognizes the bad policy of the imposition of the royalty, and the check it will give to more extensive mining operations. It must be remembered that when the tax was recommended by Major Robe, he had been but a short time in the colony, and had had few opportunities up to that period, of obtaining much knowledge regarding it; the idea was a crude one, and was the proposition of the Governor, adopted by his council, who are chiefly government officials, all being nominated by the Crown. The colonists had no voice in the matter, but as far as being unrepresented they could, they loudly exclaimed against the measure, through the press.

The great cause assigned, both by Governor Robe and

Lord Stanley, for the imposition of the Royalty Tax, is a desire to increase the "Land Fund," and the large quantity of labour that mining operations will divert from agricultural and other employments. They hold, therefore, that mining should continue to contribute to the fund for the importation of labour.

The colonists, on the other hand, assert, that the original purchase money of mineral lands, is of itself amply sufficient to introduce labour to work them. Certainly, if such was not the case, when these lands were sold at the upset price of one pound per acre, there is no doubt that it is now, when mineral lands are all submitted by auction to public competition, and at the late sales have produced an average of more than ten pounds per acre. But even admitting to the fullest extent that the mines absorbed a greater proportion of labour, than the amount paid for mineral lands defrayed, yet, it unquestionably is impolitic to burthen them with any tax, because they are the great source of the prosperity of the colony, not only on account of the wealth they bring into it, in return for mineral exports, but also by reason of the home market they create for agricultural and pastoral produce. Unquestionably, if the entire population of the colony were engaged in ordinary agricultural and pastoral pursuits, each producing for himself, the place would not be so prosperous as at present; the valuable home-market created by the mines, and many others employed in connexion with them in mere manual labour, and conveying the ore to the coast, and then shipping it, should be fostered and extended as much as possible, instead of being discouraged.

A strange inconsistency is apparent in the despatch of Lord Grey, the more remarkable that it emanates from such a clear headed statesman. Royalties are, according to this despatch, to be imposed because his lordship considers that mines would not otherwise adequately contribute to the "Land Fund," they being capable of doing so, as is exhibited by some mineral land bringing £88 per acre by public auction. This certainly is a strange argument; first, the mines are to be taxed because the noble Earl does not consider they could otherwise sufficiently contribute to the "Land Fund;" and secondly the Royalty Tax is to be imposed because these mines already contribute so very largely, the land containing minerals selling at such high prices. As this species of argument is rather novel, the author will leave his readers to digest it as they best can, for in his humble opinion the latter portion of Earl Grey's despatch entirely contradicts the proposition laid down in the first part of it.

An export duty is universally acknowledged as a tax on the industry of a country, which never should be imposed if it can possibly be avoided. But a Royalty Tax on minerals is if possible worse then an export tax, because of the inequality of its operation; the levy will be upon the gross amount of ore raised, although the expense of bringing it "to grass," as miners say, must of necessity vary extremely, according to the depth of the lodes, and various other circumstances. Even when "at grass," the value of the ore at different mines will vary, as they are near or distant from a shipping port. Therefore, even on account of its inequality, and the injustice of its operation, a mineral royalty must be objectionable

to the last degree. An anxious desire seems at all times to have actuated the Colonial Office, to acquire as large a sum as possible from colonial waste lands, and, bent on this object, various plans are resorted to for increasing this revenue, which is afterwards chiefly devoted to purposes of emigration. Such was the course pursued by Sir George Gipps, the late Governor of New South Wales, under the direction of the Colonial Office. In 1839 and 1840 he excited a demand for land; large numbers of capitalists, and others, were induced to proceed to that colony, and when they arrived, instead of giving them land plentiful and cheap to settle on, the desert wastes were doled out with a niggard hand, so that the paucity of the supply excited the warmest competition, and the enormous sum of £557,976 was raised by land sales in the years 1839, 1840, and 1841; prices being paid, which will never be again obtained, under the most favourable circumstances. The consequence of this is known: universal bankruptcy overwhelmed the country, and ruin was an inmate in every home. Truly, that recent crisis should act as a warning to any Secretary for the Colonies, and induce him to pause before he endeavours by a Royalty Tax to wring the utmost from the colonists, for purposes of emigration, all of which must be withdrawn from the circulating medium of the place, to pay British shipowners for the conveyance of emigrants thither, thus giving rise to monetary difficulties.

The imposition of the Royalty Tax and the abrogation of Special Surveys, are two more instances added to the long list of changes and modifications which have

taken place with regard to the waste Crown Lands of the Australian colonies, and which create such uncertainty with regard to property. But it is indeed much to be desired that the Colonial Secretary will not persevere in the imposition of the Royalty Tax. The mineral wealth of the colony has only been known some three years, and the working of its mines scarce commenced: any check put upon the enterprise and industry of the inhabitants may act as a formidable barrier to the development of those vast resources which mineral workings have already disclosed. There is no country on the face of the globe possessed of such rich copper mines, or so accessible to water carriage as those of South Australia; the Cornwall mines can bear no comparison with them. The value of the Cornwall ore disposed of at Swansea, in the first half of 1847, averages about £5 17*s.* per ton, whilst that of South Australia for the same period, sold at the same place, brought an average of £18 15*s.* The value of the ores of the Colony is increasing as the workings deepen, and they exhibit a very even average: 1,920 tons of ore from the Kapunda Mine, sold at Swansea in the twelve months preceding September, 1847, produced £37,024 17*s.*, or rather better than £19 5*s.* per ton.

The average value of the South Australian ores having been considerably increased by the arrivals in the last half of the year 1847, the value of this colony's ores may be said to be nearly three times and a half as great as those of Cornwall. And yet many of the Cornwall mines pay 100 per cent. on the capital embarked in them. Of what, therefore, with proper

management, might not the South Australian mines be capable, if their working were encouraged? It is not only the mine-owners and population of this colony who would be benefited by the development of its mining resources; the shipping interests of Great Britain would largely partake in the advantages as carriers of the minerals to various countries. A market also would be created for the consumption of British manufactures, for which the colonists could pay by an exportation of copper required in the home market.

Under the Crown there is no colony that presents such bright prospects for the future as South Australia, and it is a pity that, in the infancy of its prosperity, such a clog should be imposed on it, as all its inhabitants justly appear to consider a Royalty Tax. The very Act under which the colony was founded does not seem to have contemplated the possibility of such an imposition; the Crown waste lands were engaged to be disposed of *in fee*, at a fixed minimum price, or as much above it as competition by auction could procure. There were no mineral reservations; the soil above and below were alike to be transferred, on purchase, to the buyer; and now that thousands have settled in the colony, in the full belief that these engagements would be adhered to in good faith, the Colonial Secretary is bound in justice to fulfil with the colonists the original engagement, under which they were induced to leave their native land.

It certainly is a strange circumstance, that Adelaide should have been founded as near as possible in the very

centre of the mineral wealth that up to this period has been discovered in South Australia.

Standing on the eastern shore of the Gulf of St. Vincent, Adelaide is close to the range of hills which, commencing at Cape Jervis, run north, and nearly parallel to the Gulf. Mineral specimens have been discovered in every part of this range; but the mines chiefly worked, and which have given such a reputation to the colony, lie to the northward of Adelaide.

The chief of these is the Burra Burra mine, distant from the capital in a direct line about eighty miles, but by road nearly one hundred. This mine is the property of a Joint Stock Company, whose shares are at a high premium, and was first opened in September, 1845. On account of its celebrity and extraordinary richness, the author is induced to quote the following description of it by a gentleman who visited it in the November of 1846, and who is a most respectable inhabitant of Adelaide.

"On Sunday morning we took an early walk, and obtained a glimpse of the mine from the summit of an intervening hill, but were closely immured for the remainder of the day in consequence of incessant rain. Early on the following morning our breakfast was cut short by the announcement, that Captain Lawson was 'waiting to accompany us underground,' at the principal workings; and having provided ourselves with subterranean 'toggery,' we made a hasty but becoming toilet, and hastened to attend our kind conductor in his descent. The huge cargoes which have been shipped, the piles of ore we had seen at the port, the hundreds of draught

oxen and laden drays we met in their progress to the wharf, the thousands of tons of ore around the workings and near the intended smelting-house, their daily accumulations, and the reports of credible, unbiassed witnesses, had prepared us to expect much; but before we had passed through a single gallery, as the larger horizontal diverges or levels are very properly called, we saw enough to convince us we had commenced the examination of a mine incomparably richer and more productive than any mine of any kind we had ever seen in the United Kingdom.

"We passed through a succession of galleries and chambers, as the larger excavations are justly termed, one of them being large enough to hold a congregation of a hundred or two persecuted covenanters, and sufficiently lofty for the pulpit and desk, which those simple but devout worshippers managed to dispense with. In our progress we had to ascend successive perpendicular ladders, with a lighted candle retained between the forefinger and thumb; afterwards to make our descent by similar contrivances, and others much more rude; until in divers wendings, prostrations, twistings, turnings, clamberings, and examinations, we had spent nearly three hours underground, and passed through or looked through the greater part, if not all the extensive subsoil operations, which were thus correctly described in the last half-yearly report of the directors:—

" 'The present openings or workings consist of twenty mine shafts or winzes, the deepest being one hundred and forty-four feet (at which depth a lode of very rich ore has recently been cut), and they amount in the

aggregate to 1,860 feet in depth; also seventy galleries or levels, the united lengths of which measure 7,992 feet, or rather more than one mile and a half.'

"Subsequent operations have not been without commensurate results, for we counted more than the number of shafts and winzes mentioned; and although we could not estimate the lineal admeasurement of the various levels, galleries, drivages, and excavations, the time it took us to traverse them, and our impressions of their extent, convinced us that 'the mile and a half' had ceased to be a sufficient longitudinal return. There are steps down to the first range of workings; and the passes, lines of communication, and ladder shafts, are so well contrived, that we had not often to trust our 'precious bodies' to the kibble and the rope. Past experience enabled us to draw a pretty correct inference from what we saw, and to estimate (if it be possible) the value of the property itself; but we could not repress the expression of surprise and delight, as the successive astonishing development of mineral riches presented themselves, or were exultingly shown us by some of the numerous miners employed.

"The directors estimate the total quantity of ores raised in the twelve months ending on the 20th ultimo, was 7,200 tons; but as in calculating the small ores retained for smelting at the mine at 1,462 tons, they were greatly below the mark, and have been raising largely ever since, the entire quantity produced within thirteen months may safely be set down at ten thousand tons. The prices obtained in the sales of Burra Burra ores at Swansea already show an average of something

more than £23 16*s.* per ton; so that even deducting £8 16*s.* per ton for carriage, freight, and charges, the mine may be said to have yielded value equal to at least £150,000 estimated upon the ground (or 'at grass,' as miners would say); and all this within the short space of thirteen months from the commencement. Nor is this large amount likely to be a maximum, for the malachite, red oxide, and other rich kinds of ore, have become predominant; and as the mine is undoubtedly equal to the production of three hundred tons or more per week of ores likely to yield a much higher average than heretofore, it is not difficult to foresee the immensity of future returns. The great importance of the operations at this mine, as beneficially affecting the trade and commerce of South Australia, may be judged of from the facts, that the sums already distributed in thirteen months by this one concern, amongst our industrious settlers for carriage alone, must have exceeded £10,000; those expended in wages and the various items of disbursement, £20,000; and the British or Colonial freights, which cannot be less than £15,000.

"It affords us much pleasure to be able to state that not one single accident has proved fatal to any miner employed in the Burra Burra since the operations began; and it is due to the resident managers to add that every precaution is used, and no cost spared, in order to secure the ground, which is in some parts precarious enough to call for constant watchfulness. Stuhl timbers of solid gum, ten to twelve inches diameter, with stout head and foot-pieces of large measurement, were being provided without grudging from an ample store of materials

contiguous to the working shafts, which are respectively named after the several directors or principal shareholders.

"The productive hands are variously employed; some upon tribute, the highest proportion given being 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound sterling of the value of the ores raised; the lowest 2*s.*; and others by the ton for 'hard ore,' the prices varying from 18*s.* to 27*s.* 6*d.* The preparatory miners and labourers operate upon what is called tut-work, or, so much per fathom, or on specific jobs, or at per day on owner's account, or in labour subsidiary to, and chargeable upon the takers or contracting miners below. The tributers seem to prefer prompt bargains with the resident authorities to any long suspense; and an instance of this occurred while we were at the mine, wherein a guess was substituted for 'the score and the tally,' and a hard bargain seemed to be driven between the respective parties, the particulars of which did not transpire until it had been 'wetted' at Mr. Wren's public-house by the eight vendors; one or more of whom, having overstepped the bounds of propriety and peace, which necessitated the interference of the doctor and the police, and during discussions upon the *casus belli*, the following leaked out, namely, that the eight men had earned £375, or nearly five guineas per week each, during a period of nine weeks. We were informed that one man, a Cornishman, whose comrades had twice quitted him during his temporary absence from the mine, and who resumed his workings alone, cleared £50 in two months. We could adduce many other instances of as large or larger

earnings, but we feel it our duty to refrain, because in a mine so very profitable, and one not unattended with personal risk to the *underground* workman, we think great liberality is called for, and are pleased to find that liberality is not wanting; although we found more evidences of prudential care, if not of tight dealing, than we were prepared to expect in a concern as yet so young, although so gigantic, and situated in a district so far removed from ordinary social facilities and the means of control. We learned that a census had been taken a day or two before we reached the mine, the following being the respective numbers employed or resident in the township, or in and about the Burra Burra mine :—

Male Adults . . .	238
Female Adults . .	70
Children	160
Total . . .	468

"Besides these, there are sawyers, charcoal-burners, carters, and others, to the number of 50 or more, employed at various distances from the mines, so that the total population of the Association's district probably amount to 550 souls.

"We can hardly imagine a more urgent call for the exercise of missionary zeal than that which forces itself upon the attention when contemplating this new and mixed community. It wants not only an exemplary schoolmaster and schoolmistress, who would find themselves sufficiently, if not liberally, paid; but a zealous minister of religion. * * * * *

Kooringa, the township attached to the Burra Burra mine, is principally composed of substantially-built houses, constructed of stone, quarried within the township, and flagged with an excellent material raised upon the property of the Association, although at a distance of some few miles. Altogether, the local adaptation and facilities for the formation of a township are all but of the first order; and that Kooringa will be a very thriving place there can be little doubt.

"At first sight, the paucity of wood, and the lack of a visible supply of water, appeared to militate against domestic comfort; but when we learned that the men employed by the Association were supplied with water at sixpence per week, and wood at the like easy rate, we became convinced that in these, as well as in other respects, there was more than met the eye.

"An accurate weigh-bridge has recently been put down at the mine, and every precaution seems to be used to produce a just impression of fairness between master and man. By the present monetary arrangements, the labourer can purchase his weekly supplies wherever he can do so to the best advantage; and although the profits of the Kooringa store-keepers are still good, it is said they have ceased to be at all 'exorbitant.' Good stonemasons or wallers are much in request, at 7*s.* per day, or 4*s.* 6*d.* per cubic yard, finding their own materials; and masons' labourers at 5*s.* per day. Additional carpenters might find ready employment at 35*s.* to 45*s.* per week, according to ability. Sawyers get 10*s.* 6*d.* per hundred feet. The price of carriage to the port (Adelaide) is £2 15*s.* per ton of 21 cwts., and

although this seems low enough for 100 miles of carriage, over an unmade and sometimes 'yielding' road, there is no lack of carriers, inasmuch as the *average* Monday presentation is nothing short of 60 drays and 360 bullocks. The charges for up-carriage of stores and charcoal are also considerable, the stock on hand of the latter being sufficient to fill a charcoal store of 150 feet in length by about 27 in breadth. The smelting-house is a most substantial and handsome building, measuring about 105 feet by 35 feet."

In the immediate neighbourhood of the Burra Burra is a new mine, called the "Sydney Company's," at which little progress has been made, in consequence of the want of hands.

The Princess Royal mine is situated in the same district, but at some distance from the Burra Burra. It stands upon the same special survey of 20,000 acres as the Burra Burra mine, which was bought at the minimum price of £1 per acre, and bids fair at no distant date to equal its wealthy neighbour, both in produce and quality of the ore obtained. As yet the generally prevailing want of mining hands has limited the operations there, as elsewhere, and the quantity of ore raised up to January 1847, was inconsiderable, not exceeding 500 tons; but the workings have laid bare "monster lodes" of unsurpassed size and richness. A stunted pine forest is in the immediate vicinity of the Princess Royal, which will be the source of furnishing a cheap and abundant supply of charcoal for smelting; and there is an excellent site for an intended township, with the advantage of a pure and never-failing supply of water.

In the neighbourhood of the River Light, and between that and the River Gawler, unbounded mineral wealth exists, which as yet has been almost completely neglected. In fact, so vast and extensive are the mineral fields of South Australia, that the inhabitants have some difficulty in choosing where they will make purchases and commence operations. One great and indeed chief object with them at present, is to procure those mineral sites nearest a shipping port; the disadvantages of 100 miles or so of land carriage, over unmade roads, are too apparent to be dwelt on here.

The Kapunda mine is situated about a mile to the southward of the River Light, and considerably nearer to Adelaide than the Burra. This mine is undoubtedly one of the very richest that has been as yet discovered; many beautiful specimens of virgin copper, laminated and foliated, have been found here, as well as amorphous masses of great richness. The description and quality of the ore produced are various and remarkable. The grey sulphuret with green carbonate produces from 40 to 50 per cent. pure copper; black sulphuret and green carbonate 25 to 60 per cent.; pale green carbonate 26 to 48 per cent.; blue carbonate 20 to 30 per cent.; grey carbonate with red oxide 28 per cent.; dark green carbonate 30 per cent. These are the chief ores, but there are some few others of lesser value near the surface.

The extent of ores raised from the Kapunda mine up to the end of May 1847, has been about 3,000 tons in the whole, but this produce might be indefinitely extended by means of a plentiful supply of mining labour and the machinery for keeping the mine clear of water, for which

the Company have found it necessary to send to England. It is remarkable that the mines already worked are almost devoid of water. In the case of the Kapunda, the drainage may be caused by its vicinity to the River Light and the unusual presence of some surface springs.

The Greenock mine in the vicinity of a range of the same name lies due east of the Kapunda, and is much further from Adelaide, being about 70 miles.

The Montacute, a mine as yet but little worked, is only ten miles from Adelaide to the north-east of that town. Copper pyrites and carbonates are the chief productions.

To the north-east of Adelaide is a splendid mineral field; and proceeding south we arrive at Mount Barker and Mount Lofty. The former is not above a dozen miles from the north-west shore of Lake Alexandrina. An extensive tract of land has been purchased and a mine worked close to it: the produce of it consists chiefly of red oxides, containing a small portion of iron and silica, and blue and green carbonates of copper, generally earthy. Mount Barker is divided from Mount Lofty, which is much nearer Adelaide, by an iron-stone range, where iron pyrites crystallized and specular iron ore are found in abundance.

The country to the north-east of Mount Barker extending to the banks of the Murray River is of an undulating character, or level and covered with timber thinly scattered over its surface. It is well adapted for pasturage, and in some places tillage land of great fertility is to be met with.

To the southward and south-east of Mounts Barker

and Lofty, the country is chiefly of a hilly nature, abounding in minerals, until it ends in the promontory of Cape Jervis. A complete peninsula is formed of the entire extent of this country by the Gulf of St. Vincent on one side and Encounter Bay and Lake Alexandrina on the other. On the shores of the Gulf of St. Vincent there extend however, in places, rich flats and plains, capable of supporting a large agricultural population; and there are now many farmers settled there. The peninsula described presents a field of inexhaustible wealth; copper, lead, manganese, and iron, are all abundant. There have been already several mines opened in this district, and they bid fair to equal, if not surpass, the more northern ones. At Rapid Bay, on the shores of Gulf St. Vincent, a mine is worked, and at Wakefield, still further south, and close to Cape Jervis, there is another opened.

The Rapid Bay mine is most advantageously situated close to a port, where the ore might be shipped at small expense; the produce was, up to May last, generally carbonate of copper, and copper pyrites of considerable richness.

The Wakefield copper mine has yielded carbonate of copper and sulphate of barytes, and there are many other mines opening. In the early part of 1847, mineral indications were discovered in the neighbourhood of Port Lincoln, on the western shore of Spencer's Gulf. In May and June, Yorke Peninsula was visited by a party in search of minerals, and strong evidences of the existence of copper in many parts of that peninsula were found. Altogether, South Australia presents an unexampled mineral field, of surpassing richness, which must ulti-

mately make her a great and flourishing country. There is little doubt that the range which runs north from Cape Jervis parallel and beyond Gulf St. Vincent, continuing its course along and near the shores of Spencer's Gulf, until it approaches Lake Torrens, contains in various parts of it rich ores of different kinds, more especially copper, so that in extent the mineral field is immense. As yet the copper ores imported into Great Britain have been chiefly surface ores, or those found at a small depth. As the workings progress and deepen, the quality of the ore visibly improves, and 50 and even 60 per cent. ores are common both in the Kapunda and Burra Burra Mines.

The average price of the ores sold at Swansea, from South Australia, for the half year ending June, 1847, was rather more than £20 per ton: as this average is daily improving by a decrease in the surface and small ores, so the profits must be more considerable. Although it is but two years since the first copper mine was opened in South Australia, yet results have already actually shown the immense profits that have been and may be reaped.

In the middle of the year 1845, the Burra Burra Company, or more properly speaking, the South Australian Mining Association got possession of their land; in September the first shaft was sunk, and yet before the end of July, 1847, there had been *two dividends of fifty per cent. each* paid to the shareholders, thus in two years actually repaying them the entire of their original subscribed capital, besides leaving a large surplus in cash, many cargoes of ore on their way to Great Britain, and

several thousand tons at the mouth of the mine or at Port Adelaide waiting for shipment.

It may on the whole be asserted that the *actual* returns of the Burra Burra Mine since its opening have been nearly equal to three hundred per cent. per annum, on the subscribed capital.

The returns from none of the other mines have at all approached this, but this is not owing to the absence of rich ores, but to the want of energy in carrying the mines on, and the scarcity of suitable labour. If such results have accrued from the working of the Burra Burra Mine, when the ores have to be carted down one hundred miles to a shipping port, at an expense of nearly £3 per ton, which added to shipping expenses and freight would make a total of £9 per ton, what will be the case when the ores can be smelted on the spot, near the mouth of the mine? Heretofore the different Companies have satisfied themselves with erecting smelting-houses of moderate extent, intending by means of charcoal, merely to smelt the smaller and refuse ores, and continuing to ship the better and larger ones. But a recent discovery of the application of electricity to smelting copper, will create a complete revolution, both in the intentions and the prospects of the mining interest of South Australia. The absence of coal, none being as yet discovered in the Colony, debarred the hope of smelting on the spot the entire of the ores, but now, by the wonderful and striking application of electricity to this purpose, the want is supplied, and in the lapse of a comparatively short period, with little expense, the Colonists will ship pure copper, instead of the mere ore. No doubt, even if this

extraordinary discovery in science had not taken place, the South Australians would not have long continued to ship their minerals in a raw state.

The island of Van Dieman's Land is at the distance only of a few days' sail from Port Adelaide, and there coal abounds, in most available situations for shipping. This coal could be imported at an average price of from 10 to 12 shillings per ton, on an extensive scale, and then the question would arise, whether it was better to bring the coal to the copper ore, or the latter to the former. Some of the inhabitants of the Colony did propose to erect smelting-works on a small island, composed almost exclusively of coal, which lies off the coast of Van Dieman's Land, and where there is good anchorage; but the scheme does not appear to have been followed up, on account of the lethargy of the authorities and mercantile classes of that island.

Hitherto the greater part of the copper ores imported into England have been from the Island of Cuba and the western coast of America, particularly Chili, but oppressed by the differential duty in favour of Colonial copper ore, the foreign competitors bid fair to be completely beaten out of the market, at no distant date.

The working of the Chilian mines is attended with great difficulty and expense, and is mainly carried on by British capital, on which only a small dividend is paid. Situated amidst the Andes, where it is impossible to form carriage roads, the ore has to be conveyed from these mines by strings of mules, with wicker panniers slung across them, along narrow paths, to distant ports of shipment. The depth of the workings and the length of the

galleries are also extreme, and necessitate the employment of hundreds, nay, thousands of men, whose sole duty it is to convey the ore on their backs in baskets, to the outlets of the mine. All this adds to the expense, and the cost of the Chilian ores must very much exceed that of the South Australian ores, by the time they arrive at a shipping port; and yet they do not on an average exceed or even equal in value much of the Colonial ore that has been already imported into Swansea within the year. There have been several lots of South Australian sold at the rate of £32 per ton, which far exceeds the value of the Chilian or Copiago ores, heretofore esteemed the richest in the world. Mining having only commenced in South Australia in September, 1845, and a sufficient time having elapsed to get one mine only into regular working order, its last report and returns cannot fail to be interesting: they refer to the Burra Burra Mine, now admitted to be the richest in the world.

"SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MINING ASSOCIATION.

"*Established April* 16, 1845.

"At a General Annual Meeting of the above Association, held at the Auction Mart Tavern, Hindley-street, Adelaide, the 21st day of April, 1847, Charles Beck, Esq., Chairman, the following Report of the Directors was adopted, and ordered to be printed:—

"The Second Annual Report of the Directors of the South Australian Mining Association to the Scripholders, at the General Annual Meeting, held the 21st day of April, 1847.

"The Directors feel much satisfaction in being enabled to lay before this Meeting the following report of their proceedings during the past six months.

"The prospects of the Mine continue favourable, and discoveries are frequently being made tending to increase its value. At Bunce's Shaft, a considerable distance from the principal workings, eighty tons of the blue and green carbonate of copper were raised last month, and there is every prospect of exceeding that quantity this month. An important discovery has been made within the last few days of a lode of excellent ore in new ground, extending throughout the Mine at a depth of twenty-one fathoms.

"The pitches generally are producing good ore in large quantities,' and the men, numbering more than two hundred, are working with spirit. The quantity of ore raised in March last was eleven hundred and ninety-two tons, and it is expected that a like quantity will be produced this month.

"The Directors beg reference to the annexed returns of ore, showing the quantity raised during the last six months to be three thousand four hundred and eighty-one tons, which is less by 273 tons than the quantity raised in the preceding half-year; but this decrease arises from the Mine being closed nearly two months of the last half-year, for the purpose of dressing up the ore raised from the old pitches, and, when compared with the actual working time of each six months, will be found to be a large increase.

"The Directors have only received the complete account sales of about eight hundred tons of ore, the

highest price realized being £31 9*s.* per ton, the lowest £10 16*s.* per ton, and the average about £16 per ton gross, leaving a clear profit to the Association of about three thousand two hundred pounds. In addition to this, the Directors have received the Swansea Sale Lists, and samplings of 944 tons of ore, being the cargo of the *Malcolm* and parts of the cargoes of the *Phœbe* and *Emu*, which will realize £19 6*s.* per ton; and, when added to the first-mentioned quantity, the average of the entire (1,757 tons) will be about £17 14*s.* per ton.

"The Directors have, however, to remark, that the ores raised last year, being principally surface, were much inferior to those shipped this; and that better results may be confidently expected from their improved quality, in evidence of which the three last shipments, consisting of 913 tons, will produce an average of 42 per cent., worth upwards of £30 per ton. The cargoes of the *Bleng* and *Appleton*, now loading, together with the bulk of the stock on hand at the Port and Mine, will quite equal this per centage.

"As soon as the ore now at the Port is shipped, the Directors intend declaring a dividend of at least fifty per cent. on the capital stock of the Company, which they will be enabled to do from the profits of the 1,757 tons of ore above referred to.

"The Directors can now report that the smelting works are so far completed, that operations will commence in a few weeks, which they expect will be attended with success.

"Subjoined will be found the cash balance-sheet of the

Association, to the 31st March last. The item, 'Sundry Creditors, £7,232 12*s.* 11*d.*,' at the debit of the Directors, has been incurred in payment of wages and cartage of the ores on hand, which, when drawn against will leave a large balance in their favour. It will be found that the expenses of the Mine have not much increased, and the average cost of all the ore raised, including every expense attending it in the Province, is about £6 per ton.

"The Resident Director having resigned, the Directors have appointed a General Superintendent to fulfil his duties.

"It will be necessary to elect five Directors, in the place of Messrs. Stocks, Jun., Paxton, Featherstone, Bunce, and Allen, and two Auditors in the place of Messrs. Brown and Wicksteed.

"The Deed of Settlement has been prepared in accordance with the rules of the Association, and will be submitted to this Meeting for adoption.

"CHARLES BECK,

"Chairman of the Board of Directors.

'*Adelaide, April* 21*st*, 1847."

RETURNS OF ORE REFERRED TO IN THE ANNEXED REPORT, CALCULATED AT 21 CWT. TO THE TON.

Return of the Stock of Ore on hand, the produce of the Burra Burra Mines, at the Half-year ending the 30th day of September, 1846, with the quantity raised since that period, to the 31st March, 1847, showing the quantities carted from the Mines, and shipped, and remaining on hand.

1846.		tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	1846.		tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Sept. 30	On hand at Port Adelaide, in course of shipment per *Brechin Castle* ...	262	1	1	13					Sept. 30	Sold at Adelaide	0	4	2	0
	On the road to the Port	162	5	2	21					1847. Mar. 31	Shipped to Swansea for sale	3,569	7	2	15
	On hand at the Mines	2,849	9	0	0						On hand at Port	1,648	10	1	26
	1,462 tons of smelting ore, since dressed for exportation, made	621	3	3	0						On the road to Port	308	11	1	0
	Total stock on hand					3,894	19	3	6		On hand at Mines	1,850	0	0	0
1847. Mar. 31	Raised since 30th September last					3,481	14	0	7						
						7,376	14	3	13			7,376	14	3	13

Return of the Quantity of Ore raised at the Burra Burra Mines, from the opening on the 29th day of September, 1845, to the 31st March, 1847, inclusive, showing the disposition thereof.

1847.		tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	1847.		tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Mar. 31	Raised during eighteen months	9,841	4	1	3	Mar. 31	Sold	813	18	1	19
							Shipped to Swansea for sale	5,220	3	0	14
							At Port Adelaide, ready for shipment	1,648	11	1	26
							On the road to the Port	308	11	1	0
							On hand at the Mines	1,850	0	0	0
		9,841	4	1	3			9,841	4	1	3

Adelaide, 31st March, 1847. CHAS. BECK, Chairman. HENRY AYRES, Secretary.

CASH BALANCE-SHEET REFERRED TO IN THE ANNEXED REPORT.

The Directors of the South Australian Mining Association, in account with the Scripholders, from the establishment, on the 16th day of April, 1845, to the 31st day of March, 1847, inclusive.

Drs.	£	s.	d.	Crs.	£	s.	d.
To capital stock	12,320	0	0	By landed property with improvements	14,799	8	11
To rent of land and buildings	142	8	8	By wages and sundry accounts connected with the working of the Burra Burra Mines, including timber, fixed machinery, horses, tools, implements, stores, &c.	32,943	7	4
To sale of ore	8,420	17	7	By cartage of ore	21,466	10	3
To sale of copper	3	5	0	By charges, being expenses of establishment	1,275	3	8
To profit and loss premium on shares, &c.	154	9	4	By office furniture	84	14	7
To drafts against 5,220 tons of ore shipped to Swansea for sale	46,955	4	4	By discount and interest	2,612	7	0
To sundry creditors	7,232	12	11	By shipping expenses and port agency	1,467	2	1
				By freight and charges on ore shipped, viâ Sydney	227	2	6
				By sundry debtors	27	1	6
				By cash in hand	326	0	10
	£75,228	17	10		£75,228	17	10

Adelaide, 31st March, 1847. CHAS. BECK, Chairman. HENRY AYRES, Secretary.

We have compared the entries in the books of the South Australian Mining Association for the half-year ending thirty-first day of March, 1847, with the vouchers produced before us, and certify that the above account is a correct abstract of the balances at the close of that period.

April 20th, 1847. JOHN BROWN, FREDERIC WICKSTEED, } Auditors.

By order, HENRY AYRES,
Rundle Street, Adelaide, 22nd April, 1847. Secretary.

A few weeks after the above report was issued, a dividend of 50 per cent. was declared out of the profits of the first 1,757 tons sold at Swansea; according to this rate of profit, and only calculating the entire 9,841 tons raised at an average of £17 14s. per ton, it would appear that, if the entire ore raised in the eighteen months were sold, the Company would realize a profit of £34,502, or about 280 per cent.; but as the average of the ore lately sold has largely increased, the real profit does not fall far short of 500 per cent. for the eighteen months.

What effect the extensive production of copper in South Australia will have upon the mining interest of Cornwall, it would be useless and foreign to the purpose of the author to estimate in this place. Suffice it to say, that this colony presents a boundless mineral field for the investment of British capital; and how much better would it be to have it so employed under the jurisdiction of the British Empire, than in the ruinous and expensive undertakings in Mexico, and amidst the mountains and gullies of the Andes.

As yet, there has been scarce time even for one mine to develope its resources, but the richness and unexampled returns of that undertaking should be more than sufficient to induce the extensive application of British capital and labour to bring to light and turn to profit that boundless wealth which lies hidden in the bosom of the Colony. Besides copper, South Australia already produces lead of good quality: it is found in various places, but the mines worked are those of Glen Osmond, Rapid Bay, and Lyndoch Valley, which produce galena

crystallized, in cubes, granular galena, and blue lead ore, which yields a proportion of silver. The richest and most prized of all minerals, is not a stranger in this extraordinary country: native gold has been found in several localities, but more especially in the vicinity of a small river about ten miles from Adelaide.

In a Report of the Deputy Surveyor-General of South Australia, Thomas Burr, Esq., the following is a classified list of the mineralogical specimens discovered in those localities of South Australia which have been already explored.

METALLIFEROUS MINERALS.

GOLD.

Specimens of native gold, containing a small portion of silver, discovered about half a mile north of the Montacute Copper Mine, being about ten miles north-east of Adelaide.

COPPER.

Sulphurets.

Kapunda Copper Mine, specimens of		Grey copper ore.
Montacute Copper Mine	„	„ „
Burra Burra Copper Mine	„	„ „
Mount Barker Copper Mine	„	„ „
Burra Burra Mine and about twenty miles north-east of Mount Barker	„	Grey copper, variegated.
Montacute Copper Mine and all the lodes in its vici-	„	Copper pyrites, variegated.

nity, Rapid Bay, Flaxman's Valley, Hutt River	
Montacute Copper Mine	Yellow copper ore.
Kapunda Copper Mine	Purple copper ore.
Ditto ditto	Black sulphuret of copper.

Oxides.

Kapunda and Montacute Copper Mines	Black oxides or peroxides of copper, mammillated and earthy.
Burra Burra Copper Mine	Red oxide or protoxide of copper, or ruby copper ore, lamellar.
Burra Burra and Mount Barker Mines	Red oxide, or protoxide of copper, crystallized.
Burra Burra, Kapunda, and Mount Barker Copper Mines	Red oxide of copper, ferruginous and earthy varieties.
Montacute Copper	Red ferruginous oxide of copper, earthy.

Carbonates.

This ore of copper, in all its varieties, is met with at the Kapunda, Burra Burra, and Mount Barker, Montacute, Rapid Bay, Wakefield, near the Horseshoe, Onkaparinga,	Carbonate of copper, green and blue, malachite, varieties.

and, in fact, at all places where copper ores are known to exist in South Australia. It forms one of the principal ores from the Kapunda Mine. The most beautiful specimens are from the Burra Burra Copper Mine.	
Kapunda and Burra Burra Copper Mines, specimens have also been met with at other places.	Carbonate of copper, blue, crystallized and compact.
Burra Burra and Mount Barker Copper Mines	Chrysocolla, or a silicious carbonate of copper.

Muriate.

Kapunda Copper Mine . .	Muriate of copper, compact and lamellar.

Arseniate,

As an ore of copper is not known, but arsenic has been met with in small quantities in some specimens from the Montacute and Burra Burra Copper Mines.	Arseniate of copper.

LEAD.

Sulphurets.

Glen Osmond Lead Mines, Rapid Bay. Lyndoch Valley,	Galena, crystallized in cubes.

20 miles N.E. of Mount Barker.	
Glen Osmond Lead Mines	Galena, granular.
Rapid Bay	Blue lead ore, pulverulent.

Salts of Lead.

Glen Osmond Lead Mines .	Corneous lead ore, a murio-carbonate of lead.

IRON.

Sulphurets.

Rapid Bay, is general in the ranges in limestone, quartz, hornstone, slates, and associated with other metalliferous minerals.	Iron pyrites, crystallized in cubes and uncrystallized.
Montacute Copper Mine, and the metalliferous districts in its neighbourhood, Rapid Bay, Encounter Bay.	Iron pyrites, crystallized in pentagonal dodecahedrons.

Oxides.

Mount Garden Range, Barossa Range, Mount Lofty Range, very general.	Specular iron ore, massive, and lamellar, and granulated.
Near the Montacute Copper Mine.	Brown hæmatite, radiated.
Rapid Bay, Mount Barker, near the Montacute, and various other places.	Brown hæmatite, compact.

Very general in various parts of the country.	Bog iron ore and other earthy oxides.
Very general from Cape Jervis to Black Rock Hill	Magnetic iron ore, crystallized, and massive varieties.
Light River	Syenite

Carbonate.

Rapid Bay, Barossa Range, Mount Lofty Range, and various other places.	Carbonate of iron

Phosphate.

Near Mount Rufus, and near Strathalbyn.	Phosphate of iron, earthy.

MANGANESE.

Oxides.

Rapid Bay, Mypong, the Horseshoe, Onkaparinga.	Black oxide of manganese, fibrous, diverging.
Rapid Bay, Light River	Black oxide of manganese, massive.
Rapid Bay, Barossa Range, Mount Bryant.	Silicious oxide of manganese.

The report of the Deputy Surveyor-General states that there also exists in South Australia, marble of a very fine quality, and other useful calcareous rocks. The following further extracts from the report will not be uninteresting.

CALCAREOUS ROCKS.

Barossa Range, Rapid Bay	White marble, similar to Carrara.
Near Mount Barker	White marble and veined, white and grey.
Twelve miles north-east of Adelaide	White marble and veined, white and pink.
River Hutt, Barossa Range, near Mount Barker, Rapid Bay	White crystalline limestone, coarse grained.
Rapid Bay	White and grey slaty limestone.
Rapid Bay and near Mount Barker	Grey limestone, compact.
Near Mount Arden	Variegated compact limestone.
Near Mount Gambier	Compact limestone.
Near Mount Gambier and Mount Schanck	Coral limestone.
Plains near Cape Jaffa	Compact limestone with fossil remains of univalve shells.
Salt Creek	Arenaceous limestone, with fossil remains of shells partly bivalve.

Gneiss, mica, hornblende slate, chlorite slate, granite, porphyry—red and green—bitumen, native sulphur, and plumbago, are all found in various parts of the country;

and will of course become useful to the population for many purposes. Some specimens of marble and slate are of unsurpassed quality.

Little is known as yet of a large portion of the vast territory of South Australia, which includes nine degrees of longitude, and extends from 38 south into the boundless interior as far as the tropic of Capricorn. The portion best known and most populated lies between Lake Alexandrina and the River Murray, on the east, and Spencer's Gulf on the west.

Without the above boundaries, however, Port Lincoln and its locality are situated, and by degrees a considerable population is collecting there. Of late, some mineral discoveries in the neighbourhood have attracted more attention thither, and if its mineral wealth at all resembles that of the vicinity of Adelaide, it will no doubt in a short time bid fair to rival the capital in wealth and prosperity. By a glance at the map of New Holland, appended to one of these volumes, it will be perceived that Port Lincoln is situated near the south-eastern extreme of the peninsula, which bounds Spencer's Gulf on its western side. It is undoubtedly one of the best harbours in South Australia, being safe in all winds, and extensive. Some knowledge of the local navigation is necessary in approaching it, as Sir Joseph Banks's Group, and many other small islands lie at various distances off the coast.

There is much fertile land in the neighbourhood of Port Lincoln, and towards the north end of the peninsula, extensive regions of pasture present themselves,

ready for the occupation of the squatter with his flocks and herds.

To the northward, generally, the Colony has not been explored beyond the thirtieth parallel of latitude, although Captain Sturt penetrated much further into the interior, which he found to consist of barren interminable stony ranges of low elevation, that had apparently at no distant date formed the bed of an inland lake or sea. The debris discovered by Captain Sturt leaves no doubt that the subsidence of the waters had been of later date than in the country further south. It is a strange but well established fact, that the inland waters of this fifth continent, as it may truly be called, have been gradually sinking. In New South Wales, where, within thirty years, the waters formed an extensive sheet, miles in circumference, (at Lake George in the Bathurst district) cattle and sheep now pasture, and vast plains present completely dry surfaces. In other parts, north and south, the same fact is to be remarked.

In the Port Phillip district, the waters in many of the old volcanic craters have sunk down so low as to have become inaccessible, and it is annually apparent that this subsidence continues.

Far to the northward, near the Gulf of Carpentaria, Dr. Leichardt reports that he found in the course of his exploring expedition, the remains of turtle, crabs, and other crustaceous fishes, at an elevation far higher than any the waters attain at present, or have done for some years.

In various places, both in New South Wales and

South Australia, wide and expansive chasms, apparently the beds of former noble rivers, are to be met with, and now only a tiny stream bubbles and glides along their centre. The beds of these chasms exhibit vast boulder stones worn smooth by the currents that once flowed over them, and which must have rolled along with overwhelming force to wash these monster rocks into their present position.

These facts tend most strongly to sustain the now generally adopted opinion, that Australia has, by a process of nature, risen at no very distant period from the ocean, and that the progress of her elevation still continues. What effect this will have time alone can develope; but there is no question that the surface waters of this vast country have greatly diminished and still continue to do so. At present, water is to be found in many parts of South Australia by sinking only a short depth, and nature has itself provided a means by which mankind, with little trouble, can make amends for any decrease in the supply of water.

In all parts of the country, and in fact all over New Holland, the extensive chasms we have mentioned, or deep dry creeks exist. By throwing a simple dam across a narrow part of these, the rains and drainage of the surrounding country may be collected and retained, by which means an unlimited supply may be procured. The author has seen the experiment tried in various parts of New South Wales, and with great success; these deep chasms, when thus dammed, retaining the water for an indefinite period, the action of the sun even for months not being sufficient to cause it to evaporate or

materially to reduce the supply. But although the surface waters are subsiding, yet the South Australians have little at present to complain of in that respect, and ages must elapse before any injury will be sustained by them from this cause.

Near the western boundary of the Colony, and within it, roll the mighty waters of the Murray, the largest river as yet discovered in New Holland. Rising in the Snowy Mountains, near the eastern coast of New Holland, and close to the boundary of the Colonies of New South Wales and Australia Felix, it is first known under the name of the Hume, and runs to the westward and northward, receiving in its course many tributaries and the drainage of a vast country. The Ovens, the Devil's River, the Goulburn, and several others of the rivers of Australia Felix, discharge themselves from the south, whilst the noble tide of the Murrumbidgee unites with it from the north, and then is called the Murray. From this junction to the shores of Lake Alexandrina, the Murray is navigable, but for what size of craft has never hitherto been tried. In some places gigantic trees torn from its banks by the rushing waters, offer some obstruction, but these could easily be removed.

From the source of the river in the Snowy Mountains, it traverses a course of upwards of 2,000 miles, and much of the alluvial soil of its valley is of rich quality. Besides the Murrumbidgee, it receives the Darling and many other rivers from the northward. From the junction of the Hume and Murrumbidgee, the Murray follows a course of upwards of 600 miles before it reaches Lake Alexandrina, and throughout this course

it is of considerable width and very deep; for sixty miles before it enters the Lake, its average width exceeds 350 yards. Unfortunately for the future greatness of South Australia, this magnificent river has no accessible entrance from the sea for vessels of any size. Its waters are lost in Lake Alexandrina; and the country intervening between that and the ocean, being sandy and loose, it filters through it, or finds its way out by shallow streams. But although formidable obstacles do interpose between the Murray and the ocean, yet, for purposes of inland commerce, this river must hereafter become of immense importance, and of invaluable service to the country.

The surveys of the mouths of Lake Alexandrina are not at all complete, although the shallowness of the channels is well ascertained. Possibly, when myriads of the Anglo-Saxon race are settled on these shores, a navigable communication with the ocean will be effected, but the prospect of such a communication is certainly a distant one—not likely, we should say, to take place in the present generation.

CHAPTER III.

AN OVERLAND JOURNEY FROM NEW SOUTH WALES TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN THE YEAR 1839.

It was in the year 1839, that the author was first induced to visit South Australia. At that time stock of every kind fetched an extremely high price in the new colony; the supply being scanty, and the demand great. The length of the voyage by sea from Van Diemen's Land presented an insuperable bar to large importations from that quarter; so that from New South Wales alone could the demand be supplied. Although the intervening country was all but unknown, and the distance was so immense between the two colonies, yet several enterprising parties had succeeded in effecting the journey with large herds and flocks. But the losses on the road had materially curtailed profits, and many lives had been sacrificed in collisions with the aborigines. Yet the prospect of large gains was too much for the human heart to resist; and the author joined two friends in the speculation of purchasing a large herd of cattle, and driving them overland to South Australia for sale.

One of the partners was not to accompany the expedition, but in his stead a youth of sixteen, his son, was to join the party.

Shortly after our agreement had been concluded, a herd of cattle and about fifty working bullocks were purchased, besides a number of useful horses.

The party rendezvoused in the neighbourhood of Yass Plains, and on mustering, there turned out 973 head of horned cattle, including calves, besides 53 working bullocks, four drays, and nineteen horses. The men numbered sixteen, exclusive of the author, his friend, and the youth who had joined the party.

A plentiful store of flour, tea, sugar, salt pork, and sundries had been provided, with a good stock of firearms and ammunition; and on one of the drays a square punt was lodged, to aid in crossing rivers and creeks, otherwise impassable.

The men were chiefly "old hands," many having been convicts long inured to every description of hardship, and caring little whether they lay down to rest within the hollow of a monster gum-tree, or the walls of a human habitation. Several years previously, two of the number had dwelt for some time amongst the aborigines, and were most experienced bushmen.

No road or track marked out the way we were to take. Our course was along the banks of the River Murrumbidgee, until it fell into the Murray, and then down the latter until it entered South Australia, and emptied its waters into Lake Alexandrina.

Of personal baggage none of the party possessed much; a couple of suits of rough clothes and half a dozen coloured shirts was the wardrobe of each; and only one small tent

had been brought for the accommodation of the leaders of the party.

In the depth of the Australian winter we first formed our encampment on Yass Plains, that period being the most propitious for our enterprise, as it held out the best chance of water and pasture for the stock. A single day was enough to set every thing in order, and assign each his station, and on the following morning we made a start, first proceeding along the track for Port Phillip, in order to reach that part of the Murrumbidgee, where the crossing-place towards Australia Felix was situated. The distance to the river was about sixty-five miles, and as the cattle were very wild and restive, we were rather more than a week in reaching it, at a place called Gundagai. There we found an inn, the house being composed of slabs covered with bark, but the customers were both numerous and uproarious, for there were no less than five parties "camped" on the banks of the river, on their way with cattle and sheep to the rich and newly-discovered regions of Australia Felix.

Gundagai is about 250 miles from Sydney, and stands on the utmost limits of location in New South Wales. At this place there was usually a large punt, for the purpose of crossing the river, communication being effected by means of a cable attached to a tree on either bank. Before our arrival, owing to the rains having flooded the river, this cable had been broken when the punt was in the act of being hauled across, and once at liberty, down the stream floated the boat, until it grounded on a point three miles below. Being large and heavy, it had remained there, as it was found impossible to drag it up against the freshes. Thus all communication

between either bank was interrupted, and many were delayed on their journey.

But whoever suffered, the landlord of the inn was not amongst the number, for he drove a rattling trade among the wayfarers; and in all directions about the hut were to be seen men in parties of five or six, doing their utmost to get drunk. One knot particularly attracted my attention; they were stretched on a pile of split timber, with a large bucket of rum in the centre, out of which they were drinking with tin pint pots, urging all that came near them to partake of their refreshment.

Our men of course could not resist temptation, and the greater part of them, in spite of all our entreaties, joined the topers, and soon became intoxicated. That night we had great difficulty in preventing the cattle from straying, and getting mixed with others, only four men remaining to assist us. Next day twelve out of the sixteen men were uproariously drunk, and loudly expressed their determination not to proceed one step further on their journey without an advance of 2*l.* per man, and time to spend it at the inn, with some old companions they had fallen in with. This was at first resisted, but ultimately acceded to by us, for we knew that there were no other hands to be obtained, and ascertained that the distance to a police station, and a magistrate, was considerable; Yass being the nearest township.

At the end of three days the money was all spent, and an order on a Sydney merchant was given to the landlord for the amount; travellers in the interior seldom carrying ready money with them, but always paying by means of orders on Sydney. It was only on our oft-

repeated determination, not to be further accountable for what he would furnish, and a threat that in case of his supplying our men with more spirits, we would report him to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, that the landlord was induced to stop his tap, so far as regarded our men. Still, it was not until we left our camping place, and had moved down the river ten miles, that the last of them rejoined us.

We had not considered that we were fairly entered upon our journey until we left Gundagai; and as the stock were getting accustomed to be driven, everything from thenceforward proceeded more regularly. All were fully aware of the difficulties and dangers of the expedition; and we could not look forward to reaching Adelaide in less than four and a-half or five months, and during that time we must remain isolated from civilized society.

During the day, surrounded by horsemen, the cattle were driven slowly along, but scattered widely, in order to afford them an opportunity of grazing as they pursued their way. The four drays, with the horses not in use, brought up the rear; each dray drawn by eight bullocks, but in some instances ten, where the nature of the country required it. Myself, my partner, and our young friend, usually rode in front, and explored the most accessible road, avoiding long reaches of the river, when water and grass were to be had otherwise.

The distance usually traversed was from eight to twelve miles per day, a halt being made about noon that the cattle might rest, and the men take their mid-day meal. Morning, noon, and night our provisions were the same.

During the early portion of the journey we killed no cattle, and chiefly consumed salt meat, which, with tea and damper, was our support, except when one of the party shot a kangaroo, or a few wild fowl, ducks being abundant and large, near the river where swamps existed.

As the word "damper" will no doubt be unintelligible to most readers, it is well that they should be acquainted with its meaning. It is the name given by colonists to unleavened bread baked in the ashes. The mode of effecting this operation by a travelling party is unique, and deserves description.

One of the men, whose turn it is to officiate as cook, first strips a large sheet of bark from some box or stringy bark tree, and spreading this on the ground with the smooth side uppermost, it answers well as a substitute for a table. Some twenty pounds of flour are then poured out and kneaded with water into a thick consistence, when it is rolled or flattened out into a cake of some two feet in diameter. The fire must have been preparing for many hours previously, as it is requisite to have a large quantity of well-burnt hot ashes, and the ground beneath divested of all damp or moisture before the cake is put in, when it is covered over with several inches of the ashes. Thus it is left for hours, until the cook considers it well baked. The ashes are then raked aside, and the cake, now become hard, is swept clean with a bundle of twigs, or a cloth, and is fit for use.

Our men generally baked at one batch, bread enough to last five or six days, in order to save trouble and delay.

We usually halted for the night about two hours before sunset; a spot a little elevated, with water at

hand, was pitched upon, and the drays drawn close together beside our tent. The bullocks that had been in yoke throughout the day were then loosed, and allowed to roam whither they pleased in search of pasture, in charge, however, of a man on horseback, whose duty it was never to lose sight of them during the night. This duty was performed in turn by the stockmen, of whom there were ten; and it was the most arduous of any, the bullocks at times wandering to a great distance.

The remainder of the cattle were collected in a convenient spot near the drays, large fires being kindled at distances around them, and a man always keeping watch, to prevent them from breaking away or straying. The horses were tethered here and there in the vicinity, where good pasture was to be found. The scene presented by one of these camps at the dead of night, in a wild country and amidst mighty forests, was impressive in the extreme. A dozen fires threw their bright blaze high into the air, masses of sparks eddying upwards when the watchmen added fuel, which sometimes alarmed the timid calves. Covering the ground for some distance, the large crowd of cattle lay or stood beneath the mighty trees that towered far above them. Then the glittering white tent, the sombre hue of the drays covered over with tarpaulins, beneath which the men slept, all imparted a strangeness, a wildness to the scene. Anon, the shrill piercing cry of a warragil, or native dog, would be heard, and then, at intervals, broke the watchman's call of "All's well," which echoed amidst the arches of the forest, and startled from its repose the kangaroo

rat, or bandicoot, that bounded affrighted away to escape from the vicinity of man.

When morning dawned all were astir; breakfast was prepared and dispatched, and within little more than an hour the bullocks were yoked to the drays, and once more we were on our way. The journey down the Murrumbidgee was for some time a mere repetition of every day scenes, without any striking or exciting incident; here we had to drag our drays over a range by the aid of a double team of bullocks; in places close timber would present obstacles to our further progress, when the axe alone could effect a passage, but these were matters we little regarded.

For some distance below the crossing-place, various sheep and cattle stations were to be seen on the banks of the river, but at that period the furthest was not more than sixty miles from Gundagai, although now they extend hundreds of miles down.

The Murrumbidgee pursues a very tortuous course, but sometimes along its banks plains of great fertility extend parallel to the stream. These plains or flats afforded fine pasturage for our cattle; for, although the river was flooded, but little rain had fallen here for some time, the season being remarkably dry.

On our—the north—side of the river, the country was in places thickly wooded, and ranges of small elevation, covered with timber, descended to the stream. These ranges were composed of loose soil, and at that period were almost without vegetation. On the other side of the river, swamps and lagoons were frequent, and left the view unimpeded for some distance. It was a great

object with us, as I have said, to avoid as much as possible the many reaches of the river, and where herbage was at all to be found we did so.

The course of the river itself was easily discernible for a considerable distance, from the line of swamp-oaks and mighty white gum-trees that grew upon its banks; the size of these was vast; many of them were one hundred and thirty or forty feet in height, the trunks being large in proportion, and the boles frequently running to a length of eighty feet without a branch. The river varied in breadth, but in most places it was from fifty to sixty yards wide, running with a strong current, and the water perfectly fresh and pure.

When we had journeyed down the river some fifty miles, and the number of squatting stations began to decrease, we were made aware that we were approaching the outskirts of civilization by frequent reports of the depredations of the aborigines, who were represented in most formidable colours, as having but a short time previously killed several stockmen and hut-keepers, and driven in some stations, where they committed great slaughter amongst the stock.

On these reports assuming consistency, arms were distributed to the men, which they were always expected to carry, and more strictness, if possible, was observed to guard against surprise. The men became more careful, seldom trusting themselves alone, and keeping a strict look-out on any covert or scrub, where a lurking savage might be hid. The flats and plains in the neighbourhood of the Murrumbidgee all bore evident proofs of the periodical inundations that occur, the waters at

times rising and flooding the entire level country. In some instances these floods have been known to swell the river and elevate it full thirty feet above its general level; for this reason the stations had all to be located on rising ground, beyond the reach of danger resulting from floods.

The chief cause of these inundations arises from the rapid drainage of the country after rains. The vicinity of every river in Australia is remarkable for the number of gullies or deep indentations in the face of the land, which often extend as much as fifty or sixty miles from the stream. By means of these gullies, the water that falls is at once drained off, and rushes in a hundred torrents to swell the river. In consequence of this peculiarity of formation in the country lying near Australian rivers, the rain is not allowed time to penetrate the soil to any depth, and this accounts for the difficulty experienced in obtaining water by sinking.

On the seventh day of our journey from Gundagai, we reached a station belonging to a Mr. L——, who had large herds of cattle in the vicinity. This was the head station, at which there was an overseer: there had been two out-stations, but they had been both deserted a short time before, in consequence of the men at one of them having been murdered, and numbers of the cattle speared. The two men who had been killed had met their fate only the week before our arrival, and much alarm prevailed amongst the five men and overseer whom we found at the station. The particulars of the death of the two men were communicated to us.

On the Thursday morning one of the stockmen mounted

his horse as usual, and drove into the stock-yard at the out-station several cows to be milked. This stock-yard was formed of strong split posts and rails, and was near the bank of the river, at a spot where there was a good deal of brush and underwood. As soon as the cows had been driven in, the hut-keeper of the station and another man proceeded to milk them, the stockman riding away towards the run to look for some other cattle. He had been only a few moments absent, when the report of a musket was heard, and alarmed he galloped back, when he saw surrounding the yard large numbers of aborigines, whose fierce wild yells told of death and revenge, as they vented their rage on the bodies of the two murdered men, who must have been surprised whilst they were milking, as only one shot was heard, although both of them had a musket with them, which they had considered necessary for their safety.

As any near approach to the aborigines would have led to the stockman's death, he only paused for a moment, and then dashed away into the forest to carry the news to the head station.

This led to the abandonment of the other out-station, and the concentration of the men where we found them. They had sent an account of the transaction to the proprietor, and were awaiting such a supply of men as would enable them to keep the aborigines at bay.

The arrival of our party was most opportune, and our aid was anxiously sought. Many of the cattle in various parts of the run had been slaughtered by the aborigines, or driven far from their usual haunts and watering-places. The men were afraid to endeavour to collect them, for

that would require all the strength they could muster, whilst it would leave the station unprotected. As there was a large yard in which to put our stock at night, we resolved to halt for a few days and afford assistance.

Accompanied by the overseer, two of his men, and eight of our own, we scoured the country far and wide in search of the cattle; and not without a latent desire on the part of many to fall in with the natives, that they might get the opportunity of chastising them. On one occasion the wish was nearly being gratified: whilst traversing a range we perceived a body of aborigines in a flat near the river. Down we swept at full gallop, but the moment we were seen, they fled. A lagoon intervened between them and the stream, and through this they waded, and escaped across the river by swimming, our horses being unable to follow through the soft ground of the marsh.

In three days we had done good service, and a considerable number of the strayed cattle were collected; and as our further stay would be attended with injury to ourselves, we resolved to proceed on our journey. On our departure we were particularly put upon our guard against the tribe, a portion of which we had chased. Although they had fled and kept on the other side of the Murrumbidgee whilst we were in the neighbourhood, yet they could muster many more warriors than we had fallen in with, who would in all probability accompany us down the river in the hope of surprising some of the party or killing cattle. The tribe had made themselves much dreaded, and a perpetual state of warfare existed between them and the squatters, deaths on either side

being not uncommon. One chief of the tribe, remarkable for his immense size and bodily strength, as well as for the extraordinarily large proportions of his feet, which were said to be double the usual length, had been designated by some Irish convict stockmen, "Brian Borhume;" and under this cognomen he was generally known as the leader of many of the parties that had committed the more serious depredations.

The result showed that the caution we had received was not unnecessary, and we did not fail to profit by it.

The whole distance from Gundagai to the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Hume rivers, where they collectively assume the name of the Murray, is about four hundred miles, following the course of the stream, but avoiding the many short reaches. Mr. L——'s station was only sixty miles from Gundagai, but it was the last we met with. For three days after leaving it nothing remarkable occurred; but on the morning of the fourth, as one of the stockmen was heading the cattle away from some reeds and a swamp near the river, his horse was wounded by three spears thrown from the close reeds. A shot from a carbine brought me, my partner, and nine of the men to the spot; but not a native was to be found; they had all taken to the river, and on the other bank we could see their fires a few hundred yards from the stream.

At this portion of our journey we found that the river expanded; in some places it was as much as one hundred and fifty or two hundred yards wide.

The vicinity of the aborigines, and their apparent intention to use every exertion to surprise us, was the

source of much anxiety to us. We were in no position to cross the river and punish them, so all we could do was to keep the cattle some distance from the stream, except when it was necessary to water them, and to station a patrol of four mounted men well armed, who were constantly on the look-out between the party and the bank.

At night the usual precautions were found sufficient, the natives labouring under the belief that an evil spirit is abroad at that time, and therefore generally confining themselves to their camps and mia mias. For ten days the same tribe accompanied us, their fires being daily seen, or a light smoke apparent above the summit of the forest, indicating their locality.

Day after day were we subjected to constant alarms and attempts to surprise some of the men, without being able to come within such a distance of our troublesome neighbours as would enable us to retaliate; for they always took to the river, and by their skill in diving, escaped with impunity.

The eleventh morning after leaving Mr. L——'s, I had ridden forward to explore the country, accompanied by young M——, the son of our partner who had remained in New South Wales, and two men. About three miles from the camp we came upon a wet creek or successions of water-holes some four miles from the river, with which they apparently communicated in times of flood. These water-holes were densely fringed with stunted brushwood and reeds, and it was whilst exploring them for the purpose of finding a passage for the drays, that we were made aware of the presence of the abo-

rigines by a man of ours nearly riding over one as he lay. The moment the savage found that he was discovered, he sprang from his recumbent position, and aimed a blow at the man with a formidable langiel, a kind of war club. The stroke fell on the stockman's left arm, breaking the bone mid-way between elbow and shoulder, and very nearly knocking him out of his saddle. In an instant the assault was returned, and a ball from the holster pistol of young M—— passed through the body of the savage. Around us arose nearly a score of aborigines, before the first echo of the shot had died away. In the scrub we were at a disadvantage, so out of it we dashed amidst a shower of spears, after shooting two more of our assailants.

When clear of the cover we halted and reconnoitred; in places the scrub was much lighter than in others, so that we could see through, across the water-holes. On this, we resolved to intercept the aborigines at one of these breaks, and cut them off from the river. The wounded man was despatched to the camp to send us all the men that could be spared; and we drew off from the scrub so as to be out of reach of their small spears, which the aborigines throw to a great distance by the aid of the "ulma," which acts as a lever to propel them.

Opposite a very open break we stationed ourselves to observe if the natives made towards the river. We found they did so; and although we fired on such as presented themselves, killing one, yet the remainder succeeded in passing the break and following the water-holes towards the stream. Three were too few to attempt to intercept them in the scrub, so we had to await

a reinforcement, at intervals firing a shot to acquaint our friends of our position, for we continued to follow the course of the natives by the aid of two dogs, whose sagacity in tracking them, still keeping at a safe distance, was surprising.

In less than half an hour from our first discovery of the aborigines, my partner C—— and seven of the men, well mounted and armed, joined us; bringing with them several dogs, of which the men had a number to assist them in herding the cattle.

The exact whereabout of the aborigines was soon found, and a convenient and rather open spot discovered where they might be effectually intercepted. There six men were stationed, with their carbines, so as to have a perfect command of the spot, and the remaining five of the party commenced beating the scrub, aided by the dogs. We durst not enter with our horses, as we knew not what spot concealed an enemy. Where the barking of the dogs told us that the natives were hidden there a volley was poured in at random. This mode of action continued only a short time; the aborigines felt that their only chance of escape lay in reaching the river, and they made a desperate rush to effect it.

The six men, staunch at their posts, fired as the natives appeared, and then rode down upon them with cutlasses. All the party were immediately on the spot, and the *mêlée* was hand to hand; the natives, in despair, trying to force their way to the river, and our men endeavouring to cut them off. Nine of the aborigines were killed in this rencounter, but the rest succeeded in escaping into the dense scrub, in the direction of the

Murrumbidgee; and, considering that the punishment we had inflicted was sufficiently severe to deter them from further molesting our party, we drew the men off, very much against their will, and permitted some half-dozen of the natives to escape without further molestation. The thirteen dead bodies we left as they had fallen; of our men three were wounded, and two horses, but none so severely as the man who, in the first instance, had had his arm broken.

The disabled limb was set by one of the men in a very passable manner, for the operator had been in early life a medical student; but having been transported for some offence, had sunk into the position of a bush stockman, of which employment he was as much *au fait* as he had ever been at the occupation of his youth.

Our calculation was a just one as to the result of our collision with the natives; the tribe from that day relieved us of their company, very much to our satisfaction.

We met with no other aborigines until after passing the Lachlan river, which empties itself into the Murrumbidgee, rather more than three hundred miles below Gundagai, and about one hundred from the junction of the Hume. The Lachlan, where we crossed it, which we did by fording, exhibited the appearance of being, at times, a river of great size; the bed of the stream extending to a width of several hundred yards. At that period, however, the river was little more than a succession of deep broad water-holes.

The country on either side of the river was low and covered with reeds; here and there, the bed of a dried-up lagoon, or small lake, was to be seen.

The Lachlan has its rise in the Bathurst district of New South Wales, and waters an immense tract of country before it falls into the Murrumbidgee. Along its banks hundreds of squatters are settled; but at the time referred to, none had extended themselves as far as where its waters disembogue themselves into the Murrumbidgee. The country, indeed, was not favourable for location; little pasturage was to be seen; reeds extended themselves in all directions; and the flats and plains bore evident marks of being inundated at seasons.

Two days' journey beyond the Lachlan, we discovered a small range of hills, about ten miles from the Murrumbidgee; and in the valleys between the ridges we came upon some good pasturage, and a range of water-holes. As herbage of late had been scanty, we availed ourselves of this, and halted for two days.

So far our journey had been most successful; we had lost none of our cattle, with the exception of a few calves; and, although three of the horses had been wounded, they were getting on well, and bade fair soon to be fit for work again. With our men we also found much reason to be satisfied; we had brought no spirits of any kind, and once beyond the reach of *that*, they were obedient, active, and efficient; apparently as anxious for the prosperous termination of the journey as their employers. This state of matters was materially promoted by kindness, all parties equally partaking of what comforts our stores afforded.

Between the Lachlan and the Murray, the low flat land in the neighbourhood of the Murrumbidgee was

completely covered with reeds, which we had to avoid as much as possible, keeping to the more elevated ground which bordered these flats. The alluvial deposits on these flats were of great depth and richness, and no doubt would produce in abundance every description of grain, if the hand of the cultivator was extended to these distant regions, at present so little known to mankind. No doubt, the periodical floods might be made subservient to the purposes of cultivation.

On the forty-fifth day after leaving Gundagai, we reached the Murray River, where the Murrumbidgee and Hume join, to form that noble stream. At the junction, a large lake is formed by the meeting of the waters, and numerous creeks and lagoons extend on either side. On this account, we were obliged to keep at some distance from the main stream, crossing the creeks near where they took their rise.

From the Lachlan to the Murray, we had on various occasions fallen in with plains, completely covered with tall reeds from fifteen to twenty feet in height. To force a passage through these, was of course impossible, so we had to proceed around them, making circuits of ten or a dozen miles.

The distance from Murrumbidgee to Lake Alexandrina, following the course of the river, exceeds seven hundred miles; this we were in hopes of acccomplishing in about three months. At this point, our salt provisions being nearly exhausted, we commenced slaughtering cattle, as occasion required. Considering the distance they had come, the stock were little reduced in condition, and we found the fresh beef very good, and an acceptable varia-

tion of our diet. On reaching the Murray, the plains and flats extended, being closed in at from ten to fifteen miles by ranges of hills of varying height. These hills were generally timbered, and in more favourable seasons would no doubt yield fair pasturage.

After crossing the Lachlan, we several times fell in with the aborigines, but in consequence of the strength of our party, they did not molest us, and the men had strict orders never to interfere with them unless attacked. These orders no doubt would have been disregarded, if opportunity had offered, and the women of the aborigines had been in the way; but as none of their camps were seen the evil was prevented.

Security, and absence of all loss, having made the men somewhat careless, on the sixth day after leaving the Murrumbidgee, the country being of a forest character with underwood, about forty of the cattle strayed, and the loss was not discovered until the following morning. This occasioned a halt of four days; and it was only after knocking up several horses with severe riding, that we succeeded in recovering twenty-three of the number, the others eluding all search. As we found that any further attempt to recover them would be useless, the journey was continued, care being taken to guard against the recurrence of another such loss, and gratuities were promised to the men to induce increased vigilance. Nothing remarkable occurred, until we reached the banks of the river Darling, where it empties itself into the Murray from the northward.

From the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Hume, the Murray "trends" to the northward and westward,

but after receiving the waters of the Darling, it flows nearly due west for a hundred miles, when it turns to the southward.

The Darling is one of the most considerable rivers of this continent; it is formed by the junction of several rivers, the Bogan, Macquarie, Castlereagh, and others, which have their rise within the territory of New South Wales.

The extent of country drained by these numerous rivers is immense, and would lead to the supposition of a much larger body of water than the Darling contains. At the period the author saw it, its depth was not considerable, but its width was at least one hundred and thirty yards. The bed of the river was in places much wider, and indicated the frequent influence of mighty torrents.

It is generally apparent throughout Australia that rivers and streams do not increase, in proportion to the length of their course, the country drained, and the tributaries received. This is in part accounted for by the rapid evaporation, arising from a dry climate, and the extensive absorption by the soil, through which the rivers flow. The squatters of New South Wales have not, as yet, extended themselves to the more northern parts of the Darling; but the time is not far distant when their flocks and herds will be met with, even thus far in the interior of Australia, at least eight hundred miles from the nearest shipping port. Onward, onward, is the universal cry of the squatters, and the annual enormous increase of flocks and herds propels progression, at a rate inconceivable to the inhabitants of an old country.

Far out beyond the furthest location, the squatter proceeds in search of a run for his increased stock. He finds a suitable spot, and then a bark or slab hut, a stock yard, &c., are soon constructed; they stand isolated far, far, in the wilderness. A month, perhaps two months pass by, the squatter is becoming more settled and used to his location, when other seekers for new stations arrive: they find the place occupied, so they move still further onward; and so from week to week, and month to month, matters proceed, until the constantly increasing flocks of the squatter demand other new lands for their pasturage.

To Sir Thomas Mitchell, the eminent surveyor-general of New South Wales, is due the merit of having traced the course of the Darling. It is supposed, that beyond that river, some few degrees, the great inland desert of Australia commences; but on this point mere conjecture speaks.

In crossing the Darling, we were first obliged to make use of our punt; but so loose had many of the seams become, that it was only by plastering them with clay, that we could get it to float. The cattle were driven up to the bank, and then urged by the men and dogs, they rushed into the stream, and swam over; the wheels of the drays being taken off, they were floated across by means of a couple of large casks, originally packed with salt meat, that had been consumed in the early portion of our journey. Two days were occupied in crossing the Darling, and a third was spent on its banks, as one of rest and relaxation.

Thus far we had journeyed without meeting with any

of those mishaps and misfortunes that had attended other overland parties, but ours were soon to commence.

Two days after leaving the Darling, three of our most valuable horses strayed away as we were about encamping; but as there was plenty of good feed and water in the neighbourhood, it was not considered necessary to look for them that night. They had not been either tethered or hobbled for some time, as they were so quiet that the man who had the care of the working bullocks at night, kept a look out after them.

Morning came, and after breakfast myself and two others rode out in search of them. For four hours we kept together, on several occasions falling in with the horses' tracks, but again losing them in consequence of the ground being so dry and hard as not to retain any impression. We had penetrated into a range of hills, at first thinly timbered, but gradually becoming more dense; and we could not be less than twenty miles from the camp, when we came once more upon the horses' tracks, close to where two deep gullies ran up each side of a projecting hill. As the ground was rather stony, we could not discern which of the two the horses had taken, and, in consequence, we were induced to separate; the two stockmen taking one gully, and myself the other. We were well mounted and armed, and as we had not seen any sign of the aborigines for a couple of days, we did not foresee any danger in this course. Riding up the gully for some three miles I found it to extend considerably, the hills on either side of a greater altitude, and covered with timber, interspersed with underwood.

At one point the gully branched off, and I had to choose at random the course to follow.

Within an hour, and about mid-day, I found myself traversing barren stony ranges, heavily timbered with immense trees, either of the genus eucalyptus or tall bastard box-trees, whose white stems ascended to a great height without a branch. Backwards and forwards, across these ranges, and the small intervening gullies, I roamed, in the hope of falling in with the horses' tracks, but in vain; and after several hours thus employed, I resolved to return to the camp, and in case of the two stockmen being also unsuccessful, renew the search on the morrow.

The sun was declining towards the horizon, and I felt that I had postponed my return too long, the camp being at least thirty miles' distant, as well as I could calculate. To return the way I had come would have been to make a long detour, so I struck boldly across the ranges in a direct line for our camp, which was to remain stationary till the horses were recovered. Half an hour's riding brought me to the face of a steep range, down which I found it impossible to descend; so, leading my horse I followed its course to the north-west, in the hope of meeting with some less difficult spot where I could descend and cross the gully. A few dry water-holes were visible far below in the bed of the creek, on either side of which grew tea-tree, scrub, and tall dense reeds. For several miles I proceeded, the gully getting deeper, and the reeds and scrub more dense; but still I pursued the same course, considering it more than probable that the

gully would ultimately diverge and lead towards the River Murray.

The loose earth on the summit of the range afforded a bad footing, and consequently my progress was slow in most places, for I was compelled to lead my horse. At length a transverse range disclosed a gully, by means of which I descended into the main one, resolved to follow it in its course to the river, whither I felt certain it "trended."

Mile after mile was traversed; man and horse were becoming exhausted, yet, still the course bore north-west, and in vain I sought a passage through the dense reeds and scrub which lined the banks of the creek, and rose to a height of more than twenty feet. Evening—twilight came, and not until then would I reconcile myself to a temporary abandonment of my exertions, and a bivouac in the wilderness for the night.

Although on starting from the camp we had not an idea of being long absent, yet we had taken a small supply of tea, sugar, and enough damper and beef for one meal. Of this, when we separated, I had taken a share, and tethering my horse where some scanty herbage presented itself, I made a pot of tea with a bottle of water I carried, and having refreshed myself thus, I became reconciled to my situation, although it was anything but a comfortable one.

I had neither top-coat nor rug to cover myself with at night, and my horse in vain neighed loudly, thus claiming my aid to procure him water, but it was not to be had. I was aware, from appearances, that no water

existed in the bed of the creek, and even if it had, it would be futile to attempt reaching it through the dense mass of reeds which guarded it on either side.

In those regions where water generally exists, these reeds abound, and form impenetrable fastnesses, except in such places as the aborigines have burned paths through, and these are so intricate that to find your way out is a matter of difficulty. The reeds are thick, strong, and tall, from fifteen to thirty feet high, according to the soil on which they grow, and the supply of water they receive.

As it was useless deploring my unpleasant position, I set about searching for a resting-place for the night, where I might obtain some shelter, and I succeeded in finding a fallen dead tree, the interior of which had been partly burned out, in some bush conflagration. The aborigines have recourse to this mode, in order to destroy the old grass, and cause green herbage to spring up in its stead, for the support of the kangaroo and other animals they subsist on.

The tree had once been a noble box, and was sufficiently large to admit me within it, stretched at full length. Feet foremost, I crept in, and much fatigued after the exertions of the day, I was sound asleep almost before darkness had covered the earth, having first extinguished the fire, lest it might attract any straggling aborigines, and selected the best spot for my horse, where however he obtained only a scanty allowance of vegetation.

Although my resting-place was indifferent, yet long and sound was my sleep, and it wanted but a short time

of daylight when I issued forth into the cool air of morning. The figure I presented was, even to myself, a matter of amusement, for the charcoal of the inside of the tree had completely blackened me from head to foot. As water was not to be had, I was obliged to make the best attempt I could to cleanse myself, and then I once more prepared to renew my exertions to reach the camp. I had preserved some bread and tea from the previous evening's meal, and having swallowed this, I rubbed my horse down, saddled him, and again continued my path along the bed of the gully towards the north-west.

After the ill success of a like course the day before, it may be supposed I was headstrong in pursuing this plan, but knowing that the Murray was the only considerable river in these regions, I felt assured that the creek must ultimately lead to that river, and that towards the stream I should find many of the native paths through the reeds, which would enable me to cross.

Four hours I continued to ride rapidly, and still the creek showed no prospect of turning. Mid-day came, the gully had extended almost into a plain, and various arms branched off right and left; one of these intervened to prevent further progress westward, running nearly due north, and as I found it impossible to force my way through the scrub, I had to turn on my course, and as a last resource retrace my steps.

Since my descent into the gully the afternoon before, I had at least travelled fifty miles, and with an exhausted horse and no water at hand, a formidable prospect was before me. I felt satisfied that my horse would at once be refreshed, and carry me long and far, if I could only

procure water for him; but without this, under a burning sun, the thermometer being at least eighty in the shade, it would be impossible for him to bear up for many hours longer, not so long indeed as would suffice to bring me to the spot where I had descended from the range.

Although in reality lost in the bush, yet I felt satisfied as to the course I should pursue, if I were once able to cross the intervening gully, and on that account I came to the resolution of abandoning my horse, and endeavouring to force my way through on foot; to this end, and to give my horse a chance for himself, I took bridle and saddle off, and deposited them in a hollow tree, in case I might be able to recover them; my rifle and pistols I retained as necessary articles. Skirting the dense thicket of reeds for above an hour, I found one spot I considered more favourable than any other, and pushed boldly into the mass; sometimes on hands and knees, at others by the aid of the large clasp knife that bushmen usually carry, I succeeded, after about two hours' labour, in penetrating some distance, perhaps five or six hundred yards, and there found the dry bed of the creek, which appeared, at more favourable seasons, to extend in a range of wide deep water-holes. On consideration, I thought it would be the best course to follow the dry bed of the creek, until I could find some opening or path to the southward, and this I did successfully, discovering an old native path, which brought me clear through the intervening bush to the bordering range a short time before sun-set.

From early morning I had never ceased the most violent exertions, and this fatigue, joined to anxiety of

mind, and the total want of food and water throughout the day, had reduced me to a deplorable state of weakness. When I issued from the cover of the reeds, which arched themselves high over the aboriginal path, I felt that further I could not proceed, and thirst gnawed at my very vitals, inducing me to seek from tree to tree some small portion of exuded gum, in order to lessen the violent pangs of drought, and moisten my parched tongue.

Another night in the wilderness! and without food or shelter, for I could only find a small dead tree, beside which I lay on the bare soil. Long, long did the hours of that dreary night seem; the chillness of the air at times would rouse me from the state of partial insensibility into which I had fallen, and then the burning thirst I felt would impel me to cram my mouth full of bits of wood, or of such dry herbage as I could find.

In the vast wilderness around, not a living thing moved or disturbed the deep silence; the cry of the warragil or the scream of the native turkey was alike absent; the excessive drought of the period seemed to have annihilated or driven far away, both animals and birds; even a snake was not to be seen; all living things were absent, but the unhappy human being who lay turning and writhing with his sufferings.

Morning at length dawned; for an hour before I was walking hither and thither to promote the circulation of my blood, my limbs having been benumbed by so long an exposure to the night air. When the sun arose glorious and bright, my first endeavour was to procure food by the aid of my rifle, but in vain I sought to rouse

a bandicoot, opossum, squirrel, or any of the small animals usually found in those countries;—none were to be met with; not even a bird presented itself during a walk of several hours. A couple of hours before noon I was obliged to halt, for want of strength to proceed further, and I sat down beneath the shade of a large eucalypti, that extended its branches far and wide. My strength was rapidly failing, not so much from hunger as extreme thirst, and the lassitude created by the intense heat. It was with difficulty I renewed my journey shortly after noon, in the direction where I considered I might first fall in with the river. My progress was slow in the extreme; a succession of ranges of loose soil, covered with stunted timber, presented themselves and impeded my steps, and when night again came, I had not even obtained a distant view of the plains, which I knew extended many miles from the Murray.

When the sun set on me for the third time, alone in this wilderness, the energy that had sustained me so far was almost exhausted, and I sank on the earth in a state of apathy, careless of where I lay, and hopeless as to the future.

From the first, it had struck me that my partner would at once send out in search of me, when it was found that I did not return at night; but as in all probability the men would follow the course I had originally taken, I did not think it at all likely I should meet with any of them; and as I felt incapable of further exertion, my fate appeared to be sealed in this world.

That night was another of horrible suffering, which it would be vain to attempt to describe; but before morn-

ing I sank into a state of insensibility, from which the warm rays of the sun only aroused me some time after its rising. With much difficulty, and after a long effort, by the aid of my rifle I was enabled to get to my feet, and totter along a short distance, when overcome with excess of weakness, I fell, unable to rise again. This, then, I thought, was to be the scene of my death; and in despair, insensibility again ensued. Many hours I must have continued in that state, for the sun had blistered my face, and the skin had peeled off in consequence of my having lain exposed to the sun, I know not how long. When consciousness returned, it was night; a bright fire was blazing at a short distance, and kind hands were moistening my parched lips, as I lay stretched upon some opossum rugs spread upon the ground. Grateful indeed was the drink of cold tea I greedily swallowed, and hope once more revived in my breast. A party of three of our men, who with others had been sent out in search of me, had found me as I lay senseless; they would have passed through a gully, at the bottom of the range, but the dogs had discovered me, and attracted them to the spot by barking. Much difficulty was experienced in reviving me, and there is little doubt, had I not been thus providentially discovered, I should never have awaked to consciousness in this world. Three parties, with one of which was my partner, were out in search, and the men I had parted with had safely returned to the camp, but without recovering the horses. During that night we bivouacked where we were, the men stripping some bark, and making me a small "mia mia," under which they spread their opossum rugs for

me to rest on. Ravenous as my hunger was, I restrained myself, and partook of food sparingly.

Next morning it was proposed to return to the camp, but on making the trial, it was found impossible to be effected, as I was so weak as to be unable to sit a horse. From the camp we were not distant more than thirty miles, and much less from the Murray, the plains extending to within two miles of where I was found. In consequence of my weakness, and as I felt a slow fever creeping over me, one of the men left for the camp, in order to send a dray and other assistance. These did not arrive until late on the following afternoon, when I was in the height of a fever. In the morning the men carried me in a blanket over the ranges to the plains, where the dray was, and in two days I arrived at the camp, my partner not having yet returned from his search of me. The medical skill of one of the men was now of much service, and fortunately we had a small ship's medicine chest, which we had provided against emergencies.

In two days after my return, my partner and all the men came back, and it was resolved to remain encamped, until the result of my illness should be known. The ninth day, as usual, was the crisis, and the strength of my constitution brought me through it, although I was reduced to the verge of the grave by weakness. After a delay of three weeks, the camp was once more moved, and the journey continued; the interior of the punt on one of the drays being cleared out, and a bed, covered over with a tarpaulin tilt, made in it for me. Until my

complete recovery our journey was slow, not exceeding eight miles per day.

I have neglected to mention the fact, that notwithstanding a most vigilant search, neither the three horses that had strayed, nor the one I had abandoned, were recovered. The ground in all directions was so dried up, that it retained no track, and to this may the loss be attributed.

This loss was a serious consideration; the horse I had ridden and one of the others, were valuable animals, and some hundred pounds each were expected for them at Adelaide. There now remained but fourteen horses, one having died in consequence of wounds received from the aborigines. This number was little more than sufficient to do the duty required in guarding and watching the cattle; and besides, it was constantly necessary to keep a look-out for the aborigines, to provide against surprise.

Five days after the renewal of our journey, a large tribe of natives was fallen in with, encamped near the banks of a small river, that emptied itself into the Murray. The country was assuming a more barren character; high projecting cliffs guarded the banks of the river, and the elevated land on either side was without the fertility and herbage of the low level plains. Chasms and gullies, wide and deep, were constantly to be seen, all breaking through the high cliffs of the Murray, and the crossing these occasioned much trouble.

Pasturage for the stock was with difficulty obtained, and the country, at some distance from the river, was

assuming the appearance of a sandy desert; the reeds and flaggers near the river were the chief support of the stock. The first day we encountered them, the large aboriginal tribe kept aloof, and the stockmen who were watching them, remarked that they were gradually drawing off and crossing the Murray to its southern bank; accordingly, we were in hopes that the strength of our party deterred them from molesting us. That night we "camped" about a mile from the River Rufus, a comparatively small stream, which discharges itself from the northward into the Murray. At this period the river was not running, but its bed was steep, and a succession of water-holes afforded plenty of the necessary element for our stock.

Throughout the night nothing remarkable occurred; the drays and tent were placed on a small open elevation, some few hundred yards from a gully, which was densely clothed with scrub, and which "trended" towards the Rufus; the cattle, as usual, were drawn up about one hundred yards to the north of the camp, and on the side opposite where the gully ran. I had been rapidly recovering my strength, and slept with my partner and young M—— in the tent.

Morning had dawned, but the sun had not appeared above the horizon, when general attention was drawn to the dogs attached to the camp, who commenced barking violently, and rushed in a body towards the neighbouring gully. As it was now the usual hour for rising, the men were astir, and some of them proceeded to saddle the horses, and relieve their comrades on watch and guard. The dogs still continuing to make a great noise

in the gully and amongst the scrub, young M—— and two of the men took their arms and went thither. Five minutes had scarce elapsed, when two shots were fired, and, on looking in the direction, the two men were seen running towards us, whilst out of the gully poured crowds of armed aborigines, in their war paint, with terrific yells. M—— was not to be seen; he had descended a few steps into the gully, before the men, and, before he was aware of the presence of the natives, he was speared by them.

Onwards rushed the two stockmen, and close after them the aborigines; who, however, had not effected a surprise, from the mere accident of the watch being changed at the time, and consequently two-thirds of the people were on horseback and armed. It was no time for hesitation. C—— immediately called off the men from the cattle, and with eleven horseman charged the advancing natives. Although the first fire on the dense mass, consisting of upwards of one hundred aborigines, was very destructive; yet they did not give way, but, penetrating between the horsemen, made for the camp. The first alarm had roused me from a refreshing sleep, and, on being made aware of the vicinity of the natives, I had only time to get on my trowsers and shoes, when they were upon us; weak as I was, I seized my pistols and cutlass, and rushed from the tent to join the men. Five men with myself remained by the drays, and we received the natives with a volley as they poured upon us, hurling their spears and wielding their formidable langiels or war clubs.

It was a moment of fearful danger, and nothing could

have saved us but the cupidity of the aborigines, such were their overwhelming numbers. Rushing at the tent and drays, the former was at once overturned, and the tarpaulins torn from the latter. Others dashed at the cattle and commenced spearing them; but, taking the alarm, the animals, with the strange antipathy they usually exhibit to the presence of the natives, broke away and wildly bounded across the country in every direction, no effort being made to retain them, by the men, who indeed were otherwise too desperately engaged. At this moment, C——, followed by the mounted stockmen, dashed into the camp, cutting down or shooting all the natives that opposed them, and coming to our aid just at the time we had given up hope, for one of our numbers had had his brains dashed out with a waddie, and two others were badly speared. The camp was soon cleared, and the natives were flying in all directions, pursued by the mounted men; and within half an hour of the first alarm, not one was to be seen but those who lay dead or dying around. Our first duty was to ascertain how our men had escaped; two were killed, besides poor M——, whose body was found in the gully riddled by spears; four others had received dangerous spear wounds, and there were but three of the party who had escaped entirely without injury. For myself I received a stroke of a stone tomahawk on the shoulder, but, having partly parried it with a pistol, the wound was not severe. C—— was unhurt, although foremost in the fray, and bodily weakness overcoming me, I had again to stretch myself upon a bed and leave matters in his hands.

The camp presented a sad appearance; the dead bodies of the natives lay around, and flour, tea, sugar, clothes, arms, &c., covered the ground, having been torn from the drays. The tent was in shreds, and its contents scattered about. Eleven hands, including C——, were all that remained capable of duty; and they set about collecting and repacking the stores and removing the camp a short distance further from the creek, to a spot where there were a few stunted trees which might be made into a stockade and a brush-yard for the cattle. The bodies of our three companions were covered over with a tarpaulin until the evening, when it was resolved that we should inter them.

As the men had all behaved so well in action, and were equally exposed to danger, all were called together, and a council was held as to what would be the best course to adopt. It was but too apparent that the alarm and panic that had seized upon the stock, would carry them many miles into the country, and that it would be useless to despatch one or two men in search of them, and more could not be spared, as long as the camp was exposed, as the aborigines would infallibly renew the attack if they found the party considerably reduced. As these facts admitted of no doubt, it was resolved to form a strong stockade around the camp, and at a short distance a good brush-yard, into which to turn the stock as they were recovered. When these were finished, five men, exclusive of the wounded, were to remain at the stockade, and the remainder proceed to recover the cattle; for the present it was considered advisable to send one of the men, well mounted, on the track of the

main body of the stock, so as to keep them in view, and head them back as much as possible towards the camp, or at least keep them in an accessible country. This man was to take such provisions with him as would render his return unnecessary, until joined by the party whose duty it would be to collect the stock. Anxiously and sturdily did all capable of working set themselves to their task. The trees in the neighbourhood, varying from one to two feet in diameter, were cut down, and the boles piled upon each other, secured by a few wooden pins driven into auger-holes made in the timber. An hour before sunset the stockade was completed, and the drays safely placed within it; the melancholy duty of burying the dead was then performed. Close to the spot where the action was fought, a grave was dug for them, and there, in their clothes, as they fell, they were interred, C—— reading the funeral service of the Church of England over them, whilst their companions, arms in hand, stood around; and not a few dropped a tear over the fate of young M——, whose kindness of heart and bravery had endeared him to all—even to the roughest of the men. Although C—— was anxious that the bodies of the natives should also be put beneath the earth, yet the men positively refused to dig a grave for them, and merely dragged the corpses to the gully at hand, and cast them into the scrub, leaving them there for their comrades to carry off, or the wild dogs to feed on, as the case might be. That night was spent with a feeling of security within the stockade, the men keeping watch two at a time, but nothing occurred to disturb us, and the next morning all working hands

were engaged in felling and collecting trees for the brush-yard, which was finished in the course of the day, and we were at liberty to send on the morrow in search of the cattle.

Accordingly, on the second morning after the dispersion of the stock, C—— and five of the men well mounted and well armed, proceeded in search of them. Four hands, besides those severely wounded, were left with me at the stockade, and these took their turns in watching, so as to give notice if the aborigines appeared in sight. The wound on the shoulder I found affected me little, after the swelling had been reduced, and I rapidly gained strength, so that I had the prospect of soon being able to mount a horse, and partake in the toils of my companions. The wounded men were all getting on favourably, it being a most fortunate circumstance that none of the spears with which they were wounded were barbed. The points of all were smooth and round, and not at all so dangerous as those jagged with fish-bones fastened on with gum. Of the aborigines we saw nothing for the two days C—— was absent; he returned with about four hundred head of cattle he had collected, having fallen in with the stockman, who had been sent on the track. The following morning, C—— again went in search of more, leaving, however, two extra men, whose duty it would be to herd the recovered stock in the neighbourhood of the camp during the day, and at night to gather them into the brush-yard we had made.

It would be tedious to relate the many exertions that were made, during the course of three weeks, to recover

the missing stock. By degrees, many were collected, and in the later expeditions for the purpose I took a part, having sufficiently recovered from the effects of my severe illness. At length there were only 193 head missing, and as we scoured the country in vain for these, and our provisions were becoming much reduced, we were obliged to leave them to their fate, and renew our journey for Adelaide. Crossing the Rufus some ten miles from its junction with the Murray, we again met some aborigines, but whether of the same tribe or not we did not ascertain; they did not attack us, although they showed every disposition to do so, hovering near our line of march, but we kept ourselves ready for them, and no doubt this discouraged any attempt they might have been inclined to make.

To the westward of the Rufus, the Murray attains its most northern course in about the 34th degree of south latitude, near the South Australian frontier on the 141st parallel of longitude; the Murray then trends to the south, whither it continues to flow until it enters Lake Alexandrina. Near the Rufus, high table-lands exist on the northern bank of the Murray, formed chiefly of trap-rocks, and the country further back gradually becomes more sandy, as the distance from the river is increased, until barren wastes alone present themselves. For upwards of one hundred miles this description of country continues, and the river in places is approached with difficulty, varying in width from 100 to 300 yards, navigable, and chiefly clear of dead timber or rapids, the waters flowing slowly and steadily along. From the appearance of the banks on either side, the Murray must

at times be subject to most extensive floods, indications existing of the waters rising from thirty to forty feet above the level they presented to us. The only mode of descent to the river's bed was by means of some of the numerous gullies that indent the banks, and these we had to make use of when water was not to be found in any of the tributary streams or creeks that flowed from the northward or the ana-branch of the river itself.

On the one hundred and thirty-ninth day after leaving Yass Plains, we calculated that we crossed the South Australian boundary, but nothing was present, river or mountain, to mark the fact: the division is merely imaginary, and in that part passes through a wild and desolate country, with few traces of verdure, and totally useless for the purposes of man. No doubt this region is part of the vast internal desert discovered by Captain Sturt but which he was only able to penetrate a comparatively short distance. In various places, both before and after crossing the Rufus, we met with the skeletons and bleached bones of bullocks and cows that had been lost, or slaughtered by the aborigines, of some of the overland parties who had preceded us; in one place there was a cluster of at least twenty skeletons, which no doubt marked the scene of some fierce onslaught on the part of the natives. With respect to the Murray, and most of the other rivers of those regions, there is a peculiarity worth mentioning, although observed in other Australian streams. The floods to which all the rivers are subject lead to the formation of series of lagoons or ponds, parallel to the main stream, which are plentifully supplied in the rainy season, when they communicate with one

another, but in summer they are detached, and frequently completely dried up. These lagoons are called in the country the ana-branch of the main river, and at seasons preclude all approach to the principal stream.

From the banks of the Rufus our progress was unimpeded, and when we reached the longitude where the Murray trended to the southward, we quitted that river and struck across the country, for the purpose of attaining Adelaide by as short a route as possible. Shortly after leaving the Murray, we met with some extensive grassy plains, and lightly timbered soil, well calculated for pasturage; a low level country well suited for cattle then succeeded, until we approached the mountain ranges which extend north and south a short distance from Adelaide, along the peninsula formed by the Murray and the Gulf of St. Vincent. As our distance from the capital decreased, the country improved in appearance, exhibiting in places a considerable extent of good land, with many creeks and streams rising in the ranges and flowing towards the sea. At length descending the ranges, we entered upon the undulating park-like land about Adelaide, and encamped within five miles of the capital, deeply grateful to Providence for our many hair-breadth escapes during our long and perilous expedition.

At that period, Adelaide may be said to have been in her infancy, but she strikingly exhibited the appearance of the wild and reckless speculative spirit that then generally pervaded the Australian colonies. Labour, and the prices of provisions, were alike exorbitant, and yet few of the population were devoting their attention to agriculture. More than a moiety of the inhabitants of the

colony were assembled in or around the capital, the men of means engaged in speculating in land or building, and the labouring classes hard at work erecting numerous houses, and earning very high wages, which were chiefly spent in drink. Governor Gawler was then at the head of affairs, and the extensive public works and buildings undertaken by him, undoubtedly tended to sustain an unnatural and unhealthy state of affairs, occupying the minds of the colonists with his large public works, and leading them to form the most fallacious opinions of the prospects of the country from these circumstances; for where such public works were proceeded with, the people naturally expected an influx of population, and wealth in proportion. It would be useless to dwell at length on the mania of that period, or the large share the Governor had in sustaining, if not originating it, and the fearful retribution that soon after visited the colony, in the shape of all but universal public and private bankruptcy. Unquestionably, Colonel Gawler was a well-intentioned and honourable man, but he was another striking instance of the folly of entrusting the government of British colonies to gentlemen whose education, habits, and intelligence only fit them for the army and navy where their prime of life has been expended. Unacquainted with business, or with the principles of commerce and trade, military and naval men are eminently unfitted for the government of mercantile colonies; but it is all but useless to harp upon the subject, since the Government of this country seem to regard the colonies as little else than receptacles or invalid stations for the poorer members of aristocratic families, and elderly naval and mili-

tary men, who possess sufficient interest to get themselves well provided for at the expense of those enterprising children of Britain, who have gone forth, planted the standard of their native land in distant regions, and largely added to the commercial greatness of this country.

CHAPTER IV.

ADELAIDE: SITUATION, EXTENT, POPULATION—PUBLIC BUILDINGS—PLACES OF WORSHIP—PORT ADELAIDE—CLIMATE OF THE COLONY—SOIL—REPTILES—THE BUNYIP AND MINDAI—ABORIGINES—CANNIBALISM—EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT AND JUDICATURE—STATE OF SOCIETY—PROSPECTS OF THE COLONY.

ADELAIDE, the capital of South Australia, is situated in latitude 34° 56′ south, and stands upon both banks of the River Torrens, about seven miles from the sea. The ground upon which it is built slopes gently down towards the stream, and is sheltered by two natural terraces of considerable extent, from whence there is a commanding view of the level country that extends to the sea shore. The River Torrens is an inconsiderable stream which is lost in the loose sandy soil between the capital and the sea. In summer it is merely a series of unconnected ponds, but in the rainy seasons its current rolls along in a large volume and with impetuosity, flooding the level lands in the vicinity. The country around Adelaide is remarkable for its beauty: a range of hills of considerable height extends to the eastward and southward of it,

enclosing a tract of land having the appearance of an English gentleman's park.

The original place of anchorage, for all vessels trading to Adelaide, was at Holdfast Bay, an open roadstead, about seven miles from the town. At this bay a town called Glenelg was laid out, and numerous allotments were disposed of; but the frequent loss of ships from the exposed character of the bay, has led to the removal of the port to a creek about fourteen miles to the northward of Glenelg and about [eight] miles from Adelaide. This creek is called Port Adelaide, and is an inlet from the Gulf of St. Vincent: the entrance to it is in latitude 34° 53′ south, longitude 138° 34′ east. There is no considerable difficulty in approaching the entrance of Port Adelaide, but at its mouth there is a bar, across which vessels of 300 tons can at all times proceed with safety, larger vessels having to await a spring-tide, when a vessel of any draught of water can enter and find perfect shelter from all winds in a complete land-locked harbour. The projectors of the city of Adelaide, when laying out the township, must have had in prospect an immediate access of population much greater than in all probability will inhabit those regions for very many years to come. The principal division of the town is the southern section, which contains 5,570 inhabitants, whilst the northern division had, in 1846, only 1,843 residents. The two communicate by means of a bridge; but the chief Government offices and places of business are all on the south side of the Torrens. In the neighbourhood of Adelaide there are extensive park reserves, which no doubt must ultimately prove of much benefit to

the public as places of recreation. Extending over a large surface, the streets of Adelaide present irregular ranges of building; the houses are for the most part detached, and in many instances surrounded by neat gardens. As yet the streets are only partially formed; they chiefly run at right angles and are wide; and there are one or two spaces intended for crescents or squares.

There are two great drawbacks under which Adelaide labours, viz., its distance from the port and an insufficient supply of good water. The former is proposed to be remedied by means of a ship canal; but the undertaking being so extensive a one, it is not probable the colony will be able to carry out the project for many years;—time is also requisite to obtain a good supply of water from the nearest mountains; and, for the present, the inhabitants have to reconcile themselves to frequent attacks of dysentery, produced by drinking the brackish water of the Torrens.

Thanks to the extensive outlay that took place during the administration of Governor Gawler, South Australia possesses several public buildings of a magnitude considerably greater than could have been expected in so young a colony. The General Public Offices, which comprise the departments of Governor, Private Secretary, Colonial Secretary, Surveyor-General, Colonial Treasurer, and Auditor-General, is a quadrangular stone building, on the south side of Victoria Square, of considerable dimensions, and built of native stone in a plain and substantial style.

Government House is a large but incomplete pile of stone buildings, well situated in the midst of extensive

grounds near the banks of the Torrens. As yet the grounds have been only partially laid out. The gaol stands without the town on a large space of land near the river, but a part of it is set apart for a lunatic asylum; it is extensive and strongly built, ensuring the safe custody of all criminals. The Hospital is rather small, and built of brick, and is opposite East Terrace. The Supreme Court and Law Offices are included in a building originally erected for a theatre, but now converted to the more solemn duties of the law. Here are to be found the Judge's Chambers, Master's Office, the Advocate-General's, Sheriffs', Registrar-General's, and Official Assignees' Offices, and the Court of the Resident Magistrate. The Commissioners of Police and Waste Lands fulfil their departments in a private house, and the Post-Office is a mean little tenement, apparently too small for the business at times transacted there, more especially when the arrival of a mail from England draws thither anxious crowds in the hope of receiving communications that will convey news of absent friends in distant lands, with whom their thoughts and wishes sympathise.

There are native schools, a Council Chamber, and other minor public buildings of small size, and not calling for notice. The Bank of South Australia, however, is worthy of special mention, being an elegant and substantial edifice, reflecting credit on the establishment, whilst its competitor, the Bank of Australasia, carries on its business in a small wooden house.

The places of worship in Adelaide are numerous, and exhibit an extraordinary diversity of religious feeling

amongst the population. Although no creed is especially recognized, the members of the Church of England form a moiety of the entire inhabitants, and there is an allowance made by the Government of £350 per annum for a Colonial chaplain, the Rev. James Farrell, who officiates at Trinity Church, a commodious but plain erection. Three years ago he was alone in his ministrations, but a Church of England bishop has been appointed to the Colony, and has taken with him thither several assistants. The Roman Catholics are erecting a cathedral for their bishop, the Rev. Dr. Murphy; at present they hold their service in a large school-house belonging to their body. The Roman Catholics have several chapels in various parts of the Colony.

The Germans also have several Lutheran churches in the Colony, but none in Adelaide. The Presbyterians have a neat church in Grenfell Street, and the seceders from that body, one in Gouger Street. The Wesleyan Methodists own three chapels in Adelaide, one of them capable of containing 500 persons, besides several others in various country districts. The Baptists are the proprietors of two chapels in Adelaide, and the Congregationalists of one, and the Primitive Wesleyans, New Connexion, Plymouth Brethren, Society of Friends, Jews, and many other sects, have buildings or rooms where they assemble to worship the Almighty after their own peculiar manner. Although up to the present time no State assistance has been afforded to any creed, and although the original constitution of the Colony provided that all classes should be left to provide and support their own religious instructors, a Bill has been lately

introduced into the Legislative Council to make provision for religious worship. The Bill has met with considerable opposition from all classes of Colonists, and it is to be hoped that, although passed by the Council, such an Act will not be approved of by the Crown, at least, until an opportunity be afforded to the Colonists to express their feelings on the subject, through representative Members, in the Legislative Council. The Act which created the Colony and left religion to the voluntary principle should not be abrogated by a Council which cannot be supposed, by any stretch of the imagination to represent the people, as all its members are nominated by the Crown, and hold office at the will of the Governor for the time being, who has power to suspend all such refractory members as presume to entertain an independent opinion on any public question.

The seaport of the capital, Port Adelaide, is the second town in the Colony, and it boasts some extensive stores, the principal merchants having concerns here as well as at Adelaide. The population amounted to 1,529 in the census of 1846, but now they scarcely fall short of 2,000, on account of the vast increase in the export trade of the place since that period. The salt lagoons and marshy ground between Adelaide and the sea, from Port Adelaide to Glenelg, are rather detrimental to the health of the population of these places, owing to the vapours that arise from them, but notwithstanding Adelaide cannot, on the whole, be considered an unhealthy place.

The climate of the country generally is extremely salubrious, and the air light, buoyant, and exhilarating;

bronchial complaints, consumption, and all diseases of the lungs may be said to be unknown. During the summer months hot winds at times prevail, doing considerable injury to the crops; they blow from the northward, and would appear to pass over vast arid regions where moisture is unknown. The hot winds seldom last long, but give place to cool refreshing southerly sea breezes, which soon re-invigorate the constitution and dissipate the effects of the parching gales. Extending along the southern shores of New Holland, the south-west winds bring up in almost constant succession the vapours of the ocean, which condensing, discharge themselves in rain over South Australia. It will be seen from the following meteorological table that the rains in this country are both copious and frequent.

ABSTRACT OF REGISTER OF RAIN-GAUGE.

Abstract of the Register of the Rain-Gauge kept on West-terrace, Adelaide, by G. S. Kingston, Esq., from the year 1839 to 1845, inclusive.

MONTHS.	1839.		1840.		1841.		1842.		1843.		1844.		1845.		Average of 7 Years, 1839 to 1845.	
	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.
January . .	·453	7	·335	3	·45	2	·37	4	·21	3	·41	6	·134	7	·337	5
February. .	·446	3	2·01	5	·35	3	·71	4	·54	4	.175	4	·32	4	·65	5
March. . .	·85	6	·437	7	·81	4	1·015	4	·59	4	·74	6	·28	4	·675	5
April . . .	·379	5	1·202	10	3·57	12	1·808	10	1·06	6	1·68	16	·53	6	1·375	9
May . . .	·245	5	1·487	7	1·71	8	2·05	13	2·98	10	1·845	16	2·63	18	1·849	11
June . . .	3·497	10	3·247	11	2·32	7	2·401	13	1·72	13	1·138	9	3·695	15	2·574	11
July . . .	2·128	12	1·90	8	·857	10	2·09	14	3·307	20	3·655	19	2·285	16	2·031	14
August . .	4·767	16	2·829	16	2·813	15	2·77	17	2·160	15	2·115	17	3·288	19	2·964	16
September .	·85	10	4·64	16	2·045	10	1·931	9	1·085	12	2·34	16	1·95	6	2·12	11
October . .	2·57	9	1·9	6	·94	6	2·733	19	1·66	12	1·045	9	1·165	8	1·716	10
November .	3·31	14	·19	4	·47	6	1·19	8	·2	3	·91	13	1·28	11	1·08	8
December .	·345	5	3·82	6	1·71	10	1·35	4	1·7	3	·825	4	...	...	1·629	5
	19·840	102	23·997	99	18·045	93	20·418	119	17·212	105	16·878	135				

Mean yearly average of 7 years' observation, 19·371 inches, on 110 days.

The soil of South Australia generally is admirably suited for cultivation, producing the most abundant crops; there is a considerable quantity of good land within a moderate distance of Adelaide, particularly to the southward. Although the lands of this colony may not be equal to those of Port Phillip in an extent of good soil, yet, scattered over the vast area of South Australia, as far as it has been already explored, there are acres of rich land on which thousands, nay, millions of an industrious population might be settled. Besides wheat, oats, barley, and Indian corn, the soil produces hops, tobacco, the vine, and indeed all tropical fruits and plants, with a very few exceptions. The mulberry is now being successfully cultivated, whilst the colony bids fair at no distant date to become an extensive wine-producing country. All the advantages derivable from the combined growth of European and tropical plants, fruits, and vegetables, are to be derived in this colony.

South Australia has proved itself to be well adapted for the growth of the finest wools, and the boundless acres of natural pasturage, not calculated for agriculture, present an extent of country which, even at the rapid rate Australian flocks increase, it will take many long years to occupy.

The quadrupeds and birds of the colony are similar to those of other parts of Australia, which have been already described; fish is plentiful and good. The Murray abounds with numerous specimens of the finny tribe, more especially a description of small herring, extremely delicate and rich. The shores are visited annually by the black whale, which resorts thither to

calve, and whaling is carried on to a small extent, and hitherto with fair success. The reptiles of this region are both numerous and to be feared; and as no detailed account of the reptiles of Australia has been hitherto given in the pages of this work, the author will devote a portion of the present chapter to the task.

There are at least eighteen different species of snakes found in the settled Australian colonies, exclusive of two extraordinary, nay, almost fabulous nondescripts, half serpent, half animal, which it is confidently said, exist in the country.

First, in point of size, is the diamond snake, which at times attains the extraordinary length of eighteen feet. It is beautifully coloured, and moves rapidly and noiselessly along; it is most frequently to be met with in hollow trees or fallen logs, especially near the banks of some stream or water-hole. The bite is severe and the poison active, but not so virulent as many others. The aborigines, by sucking the wound, and applying cold water and the leaves of a particular shrub, generally effect a cure. The diamond snake is proverbially timid, and will not molest unless attacked, or the traveller intrudes himself between it and its burrow. The black snake is next in point of size; the greatest length of any hitherto seen is nine feet. They are to be found in great numbers in swamps and about water-holes, and amongst moist long grass. The bite of this reptile is not considered dangerous if attended to, and they are even more afraid of man than the diamond snake. The brown snake averages from four to seven feet, and its poison is so virulent that the bite of one frequently

proves fatal in a very few minutes. The aborigines know of no antidote for it; after death from the bite of a brown snake, the body swells frightfully, and assumes a livid purple hue. The brown snake, like most other such reptiles, is always found in the vicinity of water, and is one of the boldest of its tribe.

There are several species of grey-coloured snakes, all extremely venomous, although the aborigines succeed sometimes in curing their bite; the grey snakes abound amongst rocks, out-houses, dead wood, &c.

Of the yellow snake little is known, for it is rare and shy; its general length is about five feet, but there have been much larger specimens met with; it is venomous and its bite fatal. The whip-snakes, of which there are several kinds, are much to be dreaded, their bite proving at once fatal; they are generally about three feet long, slight in body, but extremely active. They are to be found where water is near, burrowed in dead wood or amongst rocks; the traveller should be cautious of them as they are extremely bold, and, during certain seasons, attack all that approach their place of location; they spring at least five times their own length, when they have time to coil up. The green snake is to be found in thickets, or amongst trees, often burrowing in the hollow branches at a considerable height from the ground; it has been known to drop on animals or human beings who were passing, and is much dreaded by the aborigines; the bite of one proving suddenly and certainly fatal.

There are one or two kinds of water-snakes, from three to six feet in length; their poison is not regarded

as fatal, and they seldom or never attack man or beast; their bodies are handsomely marked with rings, the number varying with the age of the reptile. The guano of Australia, a miniature crocodile without scales, is met with of many sizes, from the smallest to three feet in length. They are not poisonous, and abound amongst dead wood or hollow trees.

The adder may be included in the list of noxious reptiles, although it is not of the snake tribe; its great peculiarity is its deafness, which is so extreme that it is apparently unconscious of any sound whatever. In appearance it is most disgusting, with a thick plump head out of proportion to the size of the body, generally ten to fourteen inches long; its sting is contained within the point of the tail, and when it strikes a living object the sting is inserted and the poison ejected on the moment; there is no remedy for the sting, death ensuing in the course of a few minutes. The deaf adder burrows amongst dead wood, and never attacks man or beast unless trodden upon, when it has been known to sting a large ox, which has died within a quarter of an hour afterwards.

In connexion with the snake tribe of Australia, it may be well to mention here the two nondescript animals which are said to exist in Australia, but of which no living specimen has as yet been secured by the white settlers. The first of these is called by the aborigines the Bunyip, or Kine Pratie, and is said to frequent deep water-holes, pools, or rivers, thickly surrounded with scrub. In many of the located parts of Australia the natives, from time to time, have endeavoured to convey

an idea to the whites of the existence of some very large animals, which frequently seized and devoured them when they resorted to deep water-holes or particular streams. At first, many intelligent settlers considered the existence of such an animal as fabulous, and supposed the idea to originate in the fact of the cramp affecting the natives when bathing, and causing them to sink amidst vehement cries induced by the pain. But the concurring testimony, not only of the aborigines but also of the European population, has, of late, caused this supposition to be exploded, and the existence of the bunyip to be placed beyond doubt.

In the course of 1846, the skull of an animal, supposed to be the bunyip, was found; it is that of a carnivorous animal as ascertained from the teeth, and it possesses a long large cavity for the brain, with a long protruding bill, which is unfortunately partly broken off. It would appear to be of a genus hitherto entirely unknown in any part of the globe. The skull is remarkable for the full development of the cerebral organs and the extreme elongation of the nasal organ; the length of the head is sixteen inches. Some of the aborigines describe the animal when alive as standing from six to seven feet in height, and presenting the appearance in the upper portion of the body, of a human figure, with frightful features and a long flowing mane, whilst others assert that it has a head and neck resembling those of the emu, with a long hairy mane descending around it in flowing masses. In 1847, two gentlemen in the vicinity of Port Phillip Bay, whilst bathing, saw a large animal floating on the surface of the sea at a

short distance from the shore; the only portion visible was the head and neck, which resembled those of a human being, but of a very dark colour, grey whiskers and black hair. Apparently disturbed by the presence of several persons on the shore, the creature sank beneath the water at the instant that one of the party fired at it. His shot was not successful, the ball glancing from the water at a short distance. A similar description of being was afterwards several times seen in the vicinity and the booming stifled roar of some creature heard in a swamp which bordered the sea-shore at that place. There are numbers of other persons in various parts of Australia who have seen, in the neighbourhood of rivers and water-holes, a strange animal of some kind. One gentleman, a Mr. Hall, asserts that, whilst bathing in Lake George, in the Sydney district, he saw, appearing above the water at a short distance, a creature with head and neck resembling an emu, but much more thickly covered with hair or feathers, which immediately disappeared on being alarmed. The same gentleman asserts that he has frequently seen another description of animal in a lagoon near Lake George, which had a head resembing the broad coarse features of a bull-dog, covered with thick hair; this creature made a deep-toned, but faint, booming noise, and threw up water behind it with what appeared to be a tail of considerable dimensions.

However various the accounts of the bunyip may be, there can scarcely be a doubt that a strange and peculiar animal, or, what is more likely, two different descriptions of creature inhabit the deep and retired parts of rivers

and water-holes. Over the entire of South Australia, Port Phillip, and New South Wales, as far as they have been explored, the aborigines all agree in describing some such creature, and they exhibit in places much reluctance to enter the water, particularly on parts of the Murray and Lower Murrumbidgee. Combined accounts would lead to the conclusion that there are two distinct creatures, one resembling the emu in its upper parts, the other exhibiting some resemblance to the human head. The latter is called by the aborigines the Mindai, and the following description of and remarks upon it, extracted from a Port Phillip paper of March, 1847, may be found interesting:—

"There is yet another brute of whose existence the blacks are as firmly persuaded as of that of the Bunyip; but as his skull has not as yet been picked up and submitted to the inspection of a medical board, we must not too hastily set him down among the things that actually live and be. The name of this creature is the *Mindai*. He is described as a serpent of immense size and length, with a black mane, which, by-the-bye, is also bestowed on the Bunyip. According to some of our dark authorities, his girth is that of a good-sized gum tree, and his length that of a spar fit for the main-topmast of a seventy-four; while others of a more enlarged conception declare him to be like a river or a road—a method of expressing their ideas of a thing without beginning or end—and this circumstance has led some persons to suppose that the Mindai is the blackfellow's god or devil. It is certain that they ascribe every evil that may befall them to its agency, and that they promise their enemies

that they will endeavour to procure his assistance in effecting their annihilation. These facts, however, do not disprove his existence, or else—in that nations have knelt down and worshipped apes and stocks—it must follow that *they* are also beings of the imagination. It is somewhat extraordinary that no blackfellow has ever acknowledged having seen a bunyip; they speak of him from *traditionary* accounts, while there are many who declare and will firmly maintain that they have actually seen the Mindai. From the description of such men, he is a serpent about the size and shape of a large boa constrictor, with a tuft like a bunch of emu feathers on his head, and the majority pronounce him to be perfectly harmless. When in the act of progressing, he carries his head in the air to the height of the shoulder of a middling-sized man, looking round him with all the stateliness and majesty of a serpent king. The darkies tell some rather out-of-the-way stories about his sagacity, and are particularly emphatic in describing the affection of the lady Mindai for her young, and in imitating her low whining cry. The place of habitation of this interesting reptile is the Marlis, or as it is perhaps more properly called in Mr. Ham's new chart—the Mallee Scrub. His principal food, they say, consists of the egg of the Iowan, a bird frequenting the barren plains on and about the Lower Murray; although from the manner in which they tell us they manage to destroy him, it seems that he has no objection to kangaroo rats, opossum, emu, kangaroo, or even a tender bit of a blackfellow. In order to kill him, they place food of the above description, in as large quantities as they can procure, in his way, and when he

is completely surfeited, they stick him to the ground with large spears right through him, and then set fire to the surrounding grass and scrub. And to give an idea of his size and strength, they assert that when in his agony he lashes his tail on the ground, every stroke may be heard for miles like the report of musketry. It is strange, if such a serpent does exist, that it should never yet have been seen by the whites. But then if he does not exist, the pertinacity of so many different blacks in maintaining that they have seen him, is equally strange; and what is somewhat in favour of his existence is, that those only who do not pretend ever to have seen him, ascribe to him the supernatural qualities and powers above alluded to, and portray him of vast and boundless dimensions; while from the lips of those who profess to be acquainted with him by sight, we hear of nothing more than a very large serpent, about which, the most, and almost only, extraordinary thing is, that no white man has ever seen one. It must be recollected, however, that the Mallee Scrub, in which alone the blacks tell us he is to be found, is very little known, and from the fact of its being impenetrable with horses, very few have ever ventured to explore it, and those few have soon turned back disgusted and fatigued. Nor is it merely an insignificant patch of scrub to which the mindai confines himself. The Mallee forms a desert of some considerable extent, in which there are patches of feed, or small plains, affording pasture to the emu and kangaroo, which dwell therein, and water, though only in inconsiderable quantities. It must therefore be admitted, that the mindai has an equal claim to our attention with the

bunyip, nor can there be any positive grounds for denying the one an equal right with the other to the recently discovered skull, the head of the serpent being, according to the blacks, of very peculiar shape, and dissimilar from that of other snakes. Indeed, they dwell particularly in their descriptions on this point, and seem to wish to convey the idea of an elevated brow, to the appearance of which, the black tuft or crest adds considerably.—[Since the above was written, Mr. Bean, jun., informs us that one of his shepherds (a white man) has lately repeatedly seen a monster of this description, which frightened him not a little.]"

In truth, it is hard to arrive at any definite conclusion as to these nondescripts, but it is to be hoped for the sake of science, that now that public attention is drawn to them in Australia, there will be some living specimens secured. In the boundless interior of Australia, it is more than probable that many strange creatures exist, of which the Bunyip and Mindai are two.

The aborigines do not in any respect differ from those of Port Phillip; in the located parts of the colony they are rapidly fading away before the advent of civilization, notwithstanding the care with which they are watched over by a very efficient Protectorate, at whose head is a Mr. Moorhouse. Many of the settlers find them useful about their sheep and cattle stations, particularly in tracing and recovering lost stock. In the immediate vicinity of Adelaide and the more settled country, the natives are very inoffensive, but on the outskirts of the colony, especially towards Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier, and the Murray River, they are fierce and ruthless,

exhibiting great hostility to the whites. But even the more distant tribes are rapidly vanishing from the land: the diseases introduced by the whites and fire-arms are doing the work of annihilation. Infanticide and cannibalism are practised by the aborigines, the colonial courts taking no cognizance of acts committed by the aborigines *inter se.* Philanthropists and others, have from time to time questioned the fact of infanticide or cannibalism being common among the natives, or, indeed, that they are at all practised; the writer speaking from personal observation, can say that he has no doubt of it; he has several times been offered the hands and dried skin of human beings as a charm, in reward of some act of kindness done by him; and the following letter addressed by a highly respectable settler of the colony, to the Editors of the South Australian Register, will, as a detailed instance, place the hideous practice beyond doubt.

"GENTLEMEN,—

"A most revolting instance of cannibalism which I have just witnessed, has induced me to communicate the particulars to you, in order to convince those ultra-philanthropists of their error, who either deny the fact, or argue the impossibility of 'the harmless and innocent aborigines' being guilty of such atrocities.

"Having been absent from home on the 2nd instant, I was informed on my return by the shepherd, that a native woman had given birth to an infant, and that as the evening was cold he had given her some warm tea, but that she did not seem to care much about it. Shortly after, the other

shepherd came and told me that, on his return to the station with his sheep, he heard the blacks call out to him. On his approach to their mia mias, he found a new-born infant, which the mother and another woman requested him to kill by dashing it against a tree. He refused, and told them it was a very good child and that it was wrong to kill it. They repeated their request, saying it was very good to eat. In the morning at day-break, I went to their camp in order to ascertain what had become of the child and asked to see it. I was told it was dead (*plenty golpin*) and 'all gone.' I still insisted on being told what they had done with it, and at length they pointed out a native oven* in the mia mia, in which I was told the child was roasting under the ashes. I told them it was very bad and that I would send for the police. They said it had died of itself, at the same time imitating the dying wail of an infant. I repeatedly taxed them with killing it, but they still persisted in denying it. At last, however, the father admitted, 'too much all about piccaninny, no good;' and that it would be very good for the other piccaninnies to eat. In the course of an hour I returned to make further inquiries, as I could not believe that any human beings were capable of such barbarity as to devour their offspring. I therefore again threatened them with punishment unless they showed me the remains of the infant, when they lifted an old jacket in the corner of the mia mia, and underneath I found——

"The very remembrance of what I saw under the

* A hole sunk in the ground, which is heated with wood-ashes.

jacket fills me with horror, and I fervently pray I may never behold the like again. About midday the natives came down to the sheep-yards, several of them having portions of the infant with them which they were eating; when, disgusted and horrified at this further convincing proof, of which both my men were witnesses as well as myself, I drove them away. Another woman of the same tribe, whom I had seen a short time before with a '*white child*,' upon being questioned what had become of it, said, 'It plenty cry, me plenty waddy it;' and I have been told by another native, that it was likewise eaten. To those who object why did I not interfere to prevent this atrocious act of cannibalism, I will only reply, 'Place yourselves in the *bush* like myself,' with a couple of white men, in the midst of perhaps thirty or forty savages, and you will see the danger of attempting to interfere with the customs of a barbarous and revengeful people.'

"I am, Gentlemen, you obedient Servant,

"KENNETH CAMPBELL.

"*Mount Carmel, Co. Grey.*

"*South Australia, August, 10th,* 1847."

On this letter, the Editor of the South Australian Register observes, "Our correspondent's details are truly revolting, and we candidly admit, that we have been for a long time sceptical, in reference to the existence of habitual cannibalism in Australia, although we have been assured that the extreme pressure of hunger has produced occasional instances. The foregoing authenticated statements of 'horrid facts,' together with the

results of several inquiries that we have recently made on the subject, have, however, fully convinced us that this revolting usage is generally prevalent in the Titiara country and its vicinity. Parties well acquainted with that locality, and on whose testimony we can rely, assure us that the remains of one meal (consisting of the gnawed limbs of immolated infants,) have been carried about in the baskets of the lubras * as provision for the next repast. At Mr. Power's station, near Mount Muirhead, there lately was, and still is, we believe, a fat lubra, who attracted the horrid gastronomic propensities of the blacks so much, that they anxiously endeavoured to purchase her, and among other articles of exchange offered two lean lubras for her. In these various offers they did not conceal the fact, that the well-favoured lubra was wanted to be made a feast of."

The above requires no comment; they who know the Australian aborigines best universally admit the practise of cannibalism amongst them, not from necessity but out of a horrible fondness for the revolting food. The complete failure of all attempts to civilize the natives and reform their habits leaves no hope that the practice will be abolished amongst them as long as they continue to exist as a race. Moreover, we fear we must say, it is fostered, if not promoted, by the protection afforded to the aborigines by the British law, which merely takes cognizance of offences committed by the aborigines on the persons or property of the whites.

As with religion, education in South Australia was, until

* Black women.

a late period, left to the voluntary principle. In the Session, however, of the Legislative Council for 1847, a Bill was passed to afford State assistance, although opposed by a number of influential colonists. As the Bill has not been as yet carried into effect, the author considers that the principles upon which education will for the future be conducted in this colony will be best explained by giving the Act of Council in full, as it is of no great length. There being no established religion in the Colony, the Education Act will be applicable to all creeds.

"ACT FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

"Be it enacted by the Governor of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof,—

"That it shall be lawful for the Governor, from time to time, by notice published in the 'South Australian Government Gazette,' to appoint any number of persons, not less than three nor exceeding five, to constitute a Board of Education, which Board, or any three members thereof, shall have power, subject to and with the approval of the Governor, by publication in the 'South Australian Government Gazette,' to make such regulations as shall be proper for giving effect to this Ordinance, and the same from time to time in like manner to vary, alter, and revoke.

"II. And be it enacted, that whenever it shall be certified to the Governor, by the parents or guardians of not less than twenty children, between the respective ages of six and sixteen, that they are desirous to place

such children under the tuition of a teacher to be named by them, with their residences, and a description of the place where the school is proposed to be kept; and it shall also be certified by at least one Justice of the Peace, that he knows the residences of such persons to be as stated by them, that such teacher is known to him as a person of moral habits, and every way fit to undertake the care and instruction of children, and that proper accommodation has been provided for the said school, it shall be lawful for the Governor, subject to such regulations for the due application thereof as may be made by the Governor, to authorize the payment to any teacher of a salary at a rate not exceeding twenty pounds per annum for the first twenty scholars, and not exceeding one pound per annum in addition for every additional scholar above twenty attending the school: Provided that no amount shall, to any one person, be paid in virtue of this provision, exceeding forty pounds in any one year.

"III. And be it enacted, that whenever it shall be made to appear by testimonials or otherwise to the satisfaction of the said Board, that any teacher is, by character, attainments, and in all other respects qualified for the profession of instructing in the higher branches, it shall be lawful for the Governor, on the report of any three members of the said Board, to authorize the issue to such teacher, of a premium at the rate of one pound per annum for and in respect of every scholar actually instructed by such teacher in the higher branches, over and above a salary at the rate of one pound per annum for every scholar attending his instructions, of any age

above six years, and in any branches of education, provided there be not less than twenty scholars in all so attending; and that no such payment shall exceed in the whole one hundred pounds per annum, which shall be the maximum amount payable to any teacher under this Ordinance.

"IV. And be it enacted, that every teacher shall keep a book, showing the names and daily attendance of the scholars at each such school; and on the last day of every month shall prepare a nominal return or list, showing the actual attendance of such scholars during the month, and the branches in which they have been respectively taught, which return or list shall be verified by the declaration of such teacher before some Justice of the Peace to be true and correct, and forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, before payment shall be made of any salary under this Ordinance: provided always, that no scholar shall be deemed to be in regular attendance at such school, or taken into account for the purposes of reckoning the amount of salary, unless such scholar shall have attended at least twenty days in every month for which salary is claimed: provided also, that a day's attendance shall be not less than five hours at the school: provided also, that all holidays and play-hours approved by regulation of the Board, shall be reckoned as attendance.

"V. Provided always, and be it enacted, that such proof shall be produced to the Governor as he from time to time shall require of the sufficient and regular performances of the duties, in respect of which such salaries shall be respectively issued; and if it shall appear to the

Governor that the said duties have been culpably or wilfully neglected, or that there has been any misconduct on the part of the teacher, it shall be lawful for the Governor to withdraw the salary entirely, or for such time as to him shall seem proper.

"VI. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for all Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and for any other persons, being appointed by Her Majesty, or by the Governor, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, as visitors or inspectors of any such school, to enter any such school at all reasonable hours in the day, for the purpose of inspecting and examining the state and condition of the school and the scholars thereat, and of making such report thereon to Government as they or any of them may deem fit; and every such teacher shall on being desired, exhibit to such justice, visitor, or inspector, the books and returns required to be kept by this Ordinance, and shall afford all necessary information respecting the same.

"VII. And be it enacted, that all reports made by the Board, and by any visitors or inspectors under this Ordinance, together with full and true statements and accounts of all sums of money paid under the authority of the same, shall be, by the Governor, laid before the Legislative Council, as soon as may be, after the then next assembling thereof.

"VIII. And be it enacted, that in all schools kept by any teacher deriving benefit under this Ordinance, there shall be held at least once in every year an oral examination of the scholars as to their progress and proficiency, which examination the public shall be invited to attend

by notice of at least seven days, published by the teacher in at least one of the newspapers circulating in the province.

"IX. And be it enacted, that the word 'guardian' shall be construed to include any friend having the charge of children; 'teacher' shall be construed to include schoolmaster and schoolmistress; and the term 'higher branches' to include the mathematics, classics, and such other sciences, languages, and branches of education, as shall from time to time be declared by regulation of the Board.

"X. And be it enacted, that this Ordinance shall commence and take effect from and after the passing hereof, except as to the issue of public moneys, which shall commence from and after the first day of April next.

"FRED. H. ROBE, Lieutenant-Governor.

"Passed the Legislative Council this Seventeenth day of August, One thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

"W. L. O'HALLORAN, Clerk of Council."

The Act in itself is simple, and may be found to work well, but still it is another great infringement on the Charter under which the colony was constituted, another breach of faith with those who were induced to cast their lot in the country, and that by a council in which the colonists are completely unrepresented. Alas! when will England learn to treat her colonial children as she wishes to be treated herself, and allow them to rule themselves in local matters?

The government of the colony of South Australia is

entrusted to a Lieutenant-Governor, who administers under the direction and control of the Colonial Office in England. The present acting Governor is Major Frederick Holt Robe, but his successor has been appointed in the person of Sir Henry Young, who has proceeded to take possession of his appointment. The Governor for the time being is assisted by an Executive Council, composed of the Colonial Secretary, Advocate-General, and Surveyor-General. There is also a Legislative Council, who have the power to adopt British laws or frame others for the government of the colony; all acts of this body have to be approved, in the first instance, by the Governor, and finally by Her Majesty, who possesses a power of veto. The Legislative Council is composed entirely of Crown nominees, seven in number, exclusive of his Excellency the Governor, who presides; three of these are officials, viz., the Colonial Secretary, Advocate-General, and Registrar-General,—the remaining four are private individuals, chosen by the Government from amongst the colonists, who, however, have no voice in their election. The Governor possesses the power of suspending any Member of Council or Government officer, no matter what his rank may be: the Judge is not even protected against the exercise of this power,—but there lies an appeal to the Colonial Office at home. There are in South Australia all the regular departments necessary to conduct the government of an independent colony, viz., Secretary's, Treasurer's, Auditor's, Customs', Public Works', Post-Office, Surveyor's, Crown Lands', Colonial Store-keeper's, Medical, Harbour, Police, and Aborigines' Departments.

The Judicial establishment consists of a Resident Judge, one gentleman as Advocate-General and Crown Solicitor, a Registrar-General, and Sheriff, and Resident Magistrate, who has the power of adjudicating on all minor actions for debt. Besides the above, there are two Stipendiary Magistrates, exclusive of the one at Adelaide; one at the Murray River, and one at a station called Moorunde; a Government Resident at Port Lincoln, and many minor officers. There are a considerable number of gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace for the colony, who receive no emolument, but materially aid in the transaction of public business. The laws of the colony differ in no respect materially from those of Great Britain, if the non-existence of a Grand Jury be excepted. The duty performed by this body in England, as far as criminal business is concerned, is transacted in the colony by the Advocate-General for the time being.

The Customs' Duties, from which the major part of the regular revenue of the colony is derived are very moderate, as will be perceived from the following rates, leviable on the principal articles of commerce :—Tea, 2*d.* per lb.; raw sugar, 2*s.* per cwt.; refined sugar, 4*s.* per cwt.; coffee, 4*s.* per cwt.; rice, 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; beer, cider, and perry, draught, 3*d.* per gallon, bottled do., 4*d.* per gallon.

Spirits, the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or any British possession, 8*s.* per proof gallon; foreign spirits, 12*s.* per gallon; wines, 15 per cent. *ad valorem;* cigars, 5*s.* per lb.; manufactured tobacco and snuff, 2*s.* per lb.; unmanufactured tobacco, 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. All other merchandize of British growth or manu-

facture, 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. All other merchandize of foreign growth or manufacture, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. Live stock, bottles imported full, bullion and coin, seeds, bulbs, and plants, and tobacco-stalks and stems, are free of all duty.

Port Adelaide enjoys the advantage of being a free port, which no doubt before long must attract the visits of many foreign whalers who pursue their avocations in the South Seas, as provisions are so extremely cheap and of the best quality. At the port there is a steam tug which will afford its assistance, at a moderate charge, to any vessel requiring it. The tug belongs to the Government of the colony. From the exceedingly light duties leviable on imported articles, it may be reasonably assumed that all the requisites of living will continue to be extremely cheap in South Australia, more especially tea, sugar, and coffee. On tobacco and spirits the heaviest duties are leviable, but tobacco grown in the colony is free, as are also home-made wines, which are now being manufactured from the grape to a considerable extent, and of excellent quality.

In the constitution of its society, South Australia has been especially favoured; among her original colonists were a large number of men previously occupying most respectable positions in England—men of intellect, talent, and perseverance; and even her emigrants were originally chosen with a care seldom exercised in the case of other colonies. Among the agricultural class are a considerable body of Germans, who, driven from their native country by religious feeling, have sought at the antipodes a resting-place and a home where, under

the protection and laws of Great Britain, they may worship their Maker after their own ideas. Temperate, honest, industrious, persevering, and submissive, the Germans have proved of great service to the colony, and are found especially valuable from their knowledge of the cultivation of the vine, and other plants unknown to the agricultural classes of England. Fond of combination and collective exertion, the Germans, assembled around and under the jurisdiction of beloved pastors, have formed particular locations of their own, and the benefit of the system is observable in the high cultivation of their lands, and their generally improved condition. Superior in education and general knowledge to the poor of this country, the Germans in South Australia have by their unvarying good conduct made themselves respected and regarded by the settlers, who generally prefer them to any other labourers. But in the latter condition they seldom continue long; the high wages payable in the colony soon enable them to establish themselves on their own account, as they are a saving race, and find in music, in which many of them are proficients, the amusement and relaxation which the British emigrant labourer unfortunately too often seeks at the public-house.

Notwithstanding that South Australia abuts on New South Wales, yet the settled and convict portion of that colony is removed to such a vast distance, that comparatively few persons who have been convicts have crossed to this colony. They have generally engaged themselves as stockmen or shepherds to the different overland parties who penetrated through the interior, and they form such a small proportion of the entire population, that they

have little, if any, bad effect on society. No doubt, many old liberated convicts have been introduced into the colony by sea, but yet these, again coming amongst a free and moral population, generally endeavour to sink their former character in a newly-acquired one of honesty, probity, and industry; they lose the swagger, the bold coarse front, and drunken habits, general in New South Wales, and seek to identify themselves with those around them; but the indelible stamp that years of punishment, suffering, and crime, has marked upon their countenance, remains impressed there, and the bronzed, parched, care-worn face, tells for ever of former guilt, of chain-gangs, and of penal settlements.

In Adelaide itself and its vicinity, where agriculture is carried on, there is much good society to be met with; ladies—bright, fair, educated, and accomplished, and gentlemen who would not suffer by a comparison with any other colonists in the world. In the country districts, where pastoral pursuits are the chief occupation, the stations are generally too far apart for much society; the inhabitants lead the lives of squatters with their servants, already described in the first volume of this work; with this improvement, that in South Australia the female sex are more frequently present at these places, the adult females of South Australia bearing a larger proportion to the males than in any other of the Australian colonies. At the mines the large wages earned by the men generally promote intoxication, and indeed all over the colony there are to be found not a few thirsty souls, from whom the public-houses derive a

considerable revenue, the trade of a licensed victualler being one of the most profitable occupations in the colony.

Adelaide boasts of a theatre, at which considerable audiences frequently assemble, and endeavour to find as much amusement in the performances of third class professionals as they would in the best display at Drury Lane or Covent Garden. A savings' bank for the lower classes has lately been established at the capital, and there is a public subscription library supported by the more respectable inhabitants. There are three or four lodges of freemasons, half a dozen of the oddfellows, and an abstinence society. Heretofore the voluntary system for the support of religion has prevented the bitter acrimony and party religious feeling which prevail in the other Australian colonies; and it is much to be desired that the same good feeling and forbearance will continue, even if State support be afforded to the different religious denominations. This, however, must chiefly rest with the clergy; and it is well for the colony that at the head of the two creeds of the Church of England and Romanism there are two such urbane and educated men as the present Protestant and Roman Catholic bishops of Adelaide. The latter, from having been many years in Sydney, must have experienced largely the evils resulting from the religious animosities prevalent in New South Wales; and being an enlightened gentleman, it is to be hoped and expected that he will profit by his experience, and prevent by every means in his power those differences which mainly tend to retard the advancement of a colony, and diffuse discomfort and discord, where all

should be union for the general welfare and the advancement of their adopted land.

There are four newspapers published in Adelaide, two of them twice a week, the others weekly; the eldest of them is the South Australian Register, of which the first number was published in London before the colony was settled in 1836, and the second at a very early period after that event. A great part of the sales of landed property, stock, and goods, effected at Adelaide being by auction, the papers exhibit a fair share of advertisements; but, from the small population of the colony, there is little news to be found in their columns, unless when some arrival from England affords matter for them. The sameness of life in a limited community yields few exciting topics of discussion, and in default of these, it is much to be regretted that the South Australian papers, following the example of their contemporaries in the other colonies, indulge in personal attacks and scurrility, disgraceful to themselves, and offensive to the more respectable of the population. Instead of being occupied with amusing or instructive information, the South Australian papers edify their readers with abuse of one another, and discussions on personal matters. In consequence, actions for libel are numerous; so much so, that in an Adelaide paper of June, 1847, there are to be found reported no less than four actions of this sort. Rival editors, it may readily be supposed, furnish frequent employment for the gentlemen of the law.

At the present time, only eleven years after its foundation, South Australia presents itself to the world as the most prosperous colony attached to the British Crown, in

proportion to the extent of its population. In the year 1846, when the gross exports amounted to £287,059, they bore a proportion of more than twelve pounds per head for every inhabitant of the colony, and at the same time the imports exhibited a ratio of very nearly thirteen pounds sterling for each colonist, child and adult. In the same year, the exports of wheat and barley were in value £13,528; flour and biscuit, £14,410 5*s*., thus exhibiting an extraordinary proportion of agricultural produce, amongst a community, so many of whom are engaged in pastoral pursuits and mining operations. But large as were the exports and imports of 1846, they bid fair to be greatly exceeded by those of 1847, the exports for the first quarter of 1847 alone, amounting to upwards of £130,000 in value. This extraordinary rate of increase is not merely owing to the development of the mineral wealth of the country;—the land is largely cultivated by the colonists. There have been little short of 400,000 acres purchased from the Crown since the foundation of the Colony, and there are nearly double that number surveyed ready for sale. According to the latest information there would appear to be about 90,000 acres of enclosed land, of which 26,131 acres were under wheat, 1,100 under gardens and vineyards, and 3,489 acres of barley, 1,963 of oats, 593 of potatoes, and 109 of maize or Indian corn ; and what is particularly gratifying, is the fact that, notwithstanding this extensive cultivation has taken place in the face of extremely high wages, the value of wheat and all kinds of grain continues moderate. This is chiefly owing to the large number of middle-class farmers, men who till their own

soil with their own hands and the aid afforded by their families. In the early part of 1847, out of the small population of the Colony, there were no less than 1,714 land proprietors in fee in South Australia, and of these the majority were of the working classes. Unquestionably, this is eminently satisfactory; a yeoman population, such as is to be met with in the Eastern States of America, forms the strength and power of a new country, and South Australia is in the high road to acquire such. The small parcels in which land is sold by the Crown materially promotes the establishment of small cultivators, placing it within the power of every working man to become a landed proprietor, when by the exercise of ordinary prudence he has acquired a small capital.

Advantageously situated for a trade with the Mauritius, South Australia has commenced exporting thither considerable quantities of grain, salt meat, and some few head of live stock; no doubt this commerce will ultimately expand into importance.

One great advantage to the farming class of South Australia lies in the employment afforded them at all seasons, when otherwise unengaged, in carting ores from the mines to the seaport. In the year 1846, the amount paid for cartage by the Burra Burra Mine alone, exceeded £30,000, and as the produce of this mine is largely increasing, and numerous others are being opened, it would be difficult to calculate the amount that will be annually distributed for carriage amongst the South Australian farmers. Already the mine-owners have found it impossible to procure in the colony sufficient

carriage, so that they have resorted to the expedient of advertising in the neighbouring colonies, in order to induce persons to proceed to South Australia and become carriers. Eminently and especially the country best calculated for the labouring emigrant, South Australia also presents other advantages of the highest consideration to many. To the capitalist, an extensive field is opened by the mineral wealth of this colony, in which he may reap a golden harvest; as is proved beyond doubt by the returns of the Burra Burra, Kapunda, and other mines. As yet very little can by possibility be known of the mineral wealth of this vast country, for be it remembered, that not till 1845 were the first copper mines opened; and in the space of two years they have been found to surpass in produce any others in the world. Of late, the colonists have turned their attention to the extremely rich iron ore with which the country abounds, and a smelting furnace has been erected in the Mount Barker district, the fuel used being wood. The great want of the colony, as regards minerals, is coal; none has as yet been discovered, although it is more than probable that it will be, for it is met with in all the other Australian colonies, and there are various local indications of its existence; but even if it be wanting, the vast forests of the country are capable of affording fuel, in abundance, for many a year to come. In the absence of coal, they have already at some of the mines begun to smelt by means of charcoal the smaller ores, which it is found unprofitable to ship to England. But, besides mining, capitalists would find a profitable source of investment in sheep and cattle, both of which are

very prolific, and in general business employments, they would be well repaid. The usual rate of interest for money advanced on security of land or houses, is ten per cent., and when it is considered how extremely cheap all kinds of provisions are, the absence of taxation, such as oppresses all classes at home, and the small sum for which a colonist may acquire a comfortable homestead, South Australia presents advantages that cannot be surpassed, even supposing the capitalist to confine himself to lending his money at interest. There are in England numerous families possessed of a small competence, but whose increasing family causes much care and anxiety as to the future; to this class, the author would emphatically say, "Transfer yourselves to South Australia; you will there obtain three times the interest for your money that you can get in England, and you will be able to live at less than half the cost, whilst to the younger branches of your families, many sources of profitable employment will be opened, for there is no such excessive competition as exists at home." In South Australia there is no Established Church, no exclusive system of education; there, all are at liberty to worship God after their own mode, and are equally entitled to receive pecuniary assistance from the State. To professional men or persons of education without capital, South Australia presents no field, unless to such as are ready to exchange the pen for the shepherd's crook or implements of agricultural industry; there are in the colony already too many persons of this class, and so depreciated are their services, that a labouring man is frequently in receipt of better wages than a clerk, although the latter

has to maintain a respectable appearance. In fine, the author can conscientiously recommend the Colony of South Australia to many of those who linger on at home from year to year oppressed with taxation and competition; if in business, and a prey to anxiety if possessed of a limited independent income, sufficient to meet their own wants, but unable to provide for their increasing families.

Assuredly, the prospects of South Australia are bright; she possesses within herself all the great elements of wealth, which she only requires population and representative institutions to develope; and let us hope that these will be afforded to her, so as to encourage and propel the increasing prosperity of one of the most valuable colonies of which Great Britain can boast.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA,

INCLUDING

SWAN RIVER AND KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

CHAPTER I.

DISCOVERY — SETTLEMENT — SOIL — CLIMATE — PRODUCE — IMPORTS AND EXPORTS — REVENUE — MARKETS — GOVERNMENT — RELIGION AND THE PRESS.

It is impossible, at the present time, to ascertain with certainty by whom the western shores of Australia were first visited. The French claim the merit on behalf of De Gonneville, a navigator who is asserted to have visited the coast in 1504. The Spanish, Dutch, and English also lay claims to its first discovery; but, at this distance of time, it is impossible to say who really were the first visitants of the Western land of Terra Austral-Asia. This, however, is certain, that in or about 1620, the Dutch ship "Lewin," outward bound from Holland to Batavia, made the land of Australia, in latitude 34° 19′, longitude 115° 6′ east; and from this vessel the cape first seen was called Cape Lewin, which name it still retains, being the south-west extremity of the mainland of New Holland. The western coast, although nearest to the eastern seas, and even to Europe, yet was not so early explored as the eastern shores.

In 1627, however, the Dutch ship "Gulde Zeepard" made the southern shores of New Holland, and is said to have coasted along for many hundred miles.

At different periods, various navigators visited the south-west coast; but by none does it seem to have been explored, until Captain Sterling, in H.M.'s ship "Success," partially did so in 1827. The reports published by this officer turned public attention to the foundation of a colony on the western coast of Australia; and a company of gentlemen, at the head of whom was Mr. Thomas Peel—a brother of the ex-premier—was established for the purpose. From some cause this project was not carried into effect; but the Government, in the same year, issued a project of colonization, which they hoped would prove successful without any monetary aid from the Executive.

The system of colonization adopted was novel, but unquestionably politic. Grants of land were bestowed upon all immigrants, in proportion to the capital they could prove that they possessed, on arrival or afterwards, in the proportion of forty acres of land, free of all quit-rent, for every three pounds sterling of capital.

To those who introduced labour, a grant of land was afforded of 200 acres for every adult landed in the colony; and all persons, male and female, above ten years of age, were considered as adults. Smaller grants were afforded to persons introducing at their expense individuals under the age stated: for children under six years of age, forty acres of land were allowed; above that, but under nine years, eighty acres; and from nine to ten, one hundred and twenty acres.

Certain reservations were, however, made; titles to the land were not to be granted until the settler proved the expenditure of at least 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre on improvements, or stock to depasture the soil.

To act as an additional incentive to the cultivation of the soil, the Executive had the power of levying, after a lapse of three years, a small tax on all lands granted to settlers, which remained unimproved or unoccupied by stock. If this fine or penalty had not the desired effect, at the end of ten years the Crown had the power of resuming all neglected grants.

On the foundation of the colony, Mr. Peel received a free grant of 250,000 acres, on engaging to take out 400 emigrants; but not confining himself to this number, he became entitled, in right of the population introduced at his expense, to a total of half a million of acres. Captain Sterling, who surveyed the shores of the colony, was appointed Governor, and received a free grant of 100,000 acres.

The advantageous terms offered to settlers had the effect of causing many hundred colonists to be assembled on the banks of the Swan and Canning rivers, before the close of 1830. But the hardships that were undergone by these enterprising people, were, to say the truth, in the first instance extreme.

The Executive affording no monetary assistance, the inhabitants were completely thrown on their own resources, or on those of the persons at whose expense they had been conveyed thither. For the first three years, the crops raised were insignificant, and dependence had almost entirely to be placed on imported supplies. These

the population had not the means of procuring: the *onus* was thus thrown on Mr. Peel, who expended large sums for the purpose; but the land first occupied proved barren, and disappointments, discontent, and insubordination prevailed. Many of the inhabitants were reduced to live on such shell-fish, sea-weed, or roots, as they could find, and their sufferings were very great.

The interior, however, was after a short lapse of time explored; extensive plains, and some fertile valleys were discovered, and the hopes of the settlers began to revive. But the first few years so completely sickened Mr. Peel of his scheme of colonization, that he ultimately abandoned the place, and left those he had introduced, to do the best they could on their own account.

Captain Sterling, in his capacity of Governor, held fast by the settlement; and notwithstanding its early difficulties, its progress on the road to prosperity has been gradual and healthful, if not so rapid as that of the settlements on the southern and eastern shores of New Holland. The colony has had, it may be stated, little or no aid from the Executive; and the small number of its population at this moment may be accounted for by the fact, that it has possessed no funds wherewith to encourage immigration into it.

Shortly after Governor Sterling took possession of Western Australia in the name of the British Crown, a small settlement that had been effected at King George's Sound in 1826, by a party of troops and convicts from Sydney, was made over to him, and evacuated by its former possessors, it being within the boundary of Western Australia, as defined by the Colonial Office. Western

Australia, as a colony, includes all that land between the 28th and 35th parallels of south latitude, and the 115th and 119th degrees of east longitude.

Perth and Freemantle, both on the banks of the Swan River, are the two principal townships. Perth is inland about ten miles, and on the banks of the river, whilst Freemantle lies close to the sea. The soil around the latter is sandy, and rather barren, and its vicinity to the sea alone is the chief cause of its not being evacuated, and its population transferring themselves to more fertile parts of the river.

Besides these there are other towns—Guilford, York, Augusta, and Albany. Augusta is situated at Flinders Bay, on the River Blackwood, but its population is very limited, the settlement consisting of only a few houses; yet its situation is very good, lying close to Cape Lowin, the south-western extremity of the mainland. It is, however, to the eastward of that promontory, and therefore to leeward of it, if bound to the westward or northward, the prevailing winds being from the south-west. Albany is the chief settlement at King George's Sound.

On different parts of the coast there are safe harbours, but particularly at Cockburn Sound, near the Swan. The rise and fall of the tide here are extraordinary, being no less in spring tides than from thirty to forty feet. Along the coast are numerous minor creeks or inlets, into which small streams from a mountain range that traverses the entire colony, disembogue themselves.

This range is named the Darling Mountains, which run nearly north and south, at various distances of from

thirty to sixty or seventy miles from the sea. The mean height of the range is about fourteen hundred feet, but several points attain an altitude of three thousand feet and upwards; these however are, in general, isolated peaks. These ranges are chiefly of granite or sandstone, interspersed here and there with ironstone.

Between the Darling Mountains and the sea, there are many open plains, apparently well suited for stock; towards the sea, however, the land is low and in many places swampy; but yet hills of slight elevation are found well suited for cultivation, as is also much of the soil on the banks of the various streams, when the ground is at a fair elevation above the level of the water, in the vicinity.

Within the last few years, there have been some very fine tracts of country explored in the neighbourhood of King George's Sound, offering a vast extent of pasture to flocks and herds, and much land also fit for the plough.

The land near the coast where lagoons do not exist, is chiefly light and sandy; but it loses this character more inland, where there is much good soil. Across the Darling Mountains, there are extensive plains and open forests; but not much is known of that part of the country, as the wants of the colonists, and the increase of their flocks and herds, have not, as yet, induced them to occupy any large portions of it. They have confined themselves to the land nearer the coast. For some years it was observed, that the sheep and cattle in the Swan River District, were subject to a peculiar disease, which, in most instances, proved fatal in a very short time. This was attributed to many causes; but it has not been until the last five years that the true cause has

been discovered, in a poisonous plant, which grows in some particular places; indeed, it has been found in many parts of Western Australia, but more especially in the vicinity of the Darling range. This poisonous plant has proved most injurious to the interests of the colony, by checking the increase of stock; but it is said not to be generally known in the vicinity of King George's Sound.

The climate of Western Australia is extremely pure and dry, and completely exempt from the extremely hot winds prevalent in New South Wales; this is easily accounted for by the situation of this district, and the fact of easterly winds, which would cross the interior of New Holland, and the sandy deserts, supposed to occasion the hot winds, being of rare occurrence. Northerly winds inclining to the east, do however bring down with them at times a sultry parching breath, which, as long as it continues, is oppressive, but they last generally only a few hours, and the cool sea breeze of the afternoon soon dispels all traces of it, and renovates the frame of man.

The prevailing winds are from the south-west and north-west; during at least nine months in the year, it seldom, if ever, blows from any other direction. The months of June, July, and August, are the months when easterly and northerly winds occur, but with intervals of the prevalent westerly breezes.

Although situated within ten degrees of the tropic, yet the heat is very seldom great, tempered as it is during the summer months by the westerly winds, which traverse thousands of miles of the Southern and Indian

Ocean, before they are wafted over the shores of Western Australia.

The near approach of the sun in the summer months of December, January, February, and March, produces a constant evaporation, which renders the air extremely pure, but is very destructive to all kinds of tender fruit trees, plants, and shrubs. But yet, assuaged by westerly winds, the heat is never felt to be excessive; and no matter how warm the day may be, the nights are always cool and refreshing. The thermometer shows a mean temperature of from 60° to 70°; it sometimes reaches 100° in the hottest part of summer, but that is very rare; it seldom exceeds 80° to 85°.

But little rain falls in the summer months; a shower then is a very rare occurrence, but there are heavy dews at night. June, July, August, and September, are the winter months. The rains occur at intervals during these months with great violence, accompanied with thunder and strong gales of wind; during the winter the aggregate fall of rain is very large, but there are intervals of fine weather, which often last for a week.

Slight frosts occur at times during the winter months, but an hour's sun disperses all evidence of them; snow is as much a stranger to Western Australia, as it is to most other parts of New Holland.

On the whole, experience has proved the climate of this colony to be very healthy, and favourable to the long duration of life. Pulmonary complaints, and bronchial affections, asthma, &c., are unknown; and even persons arriving in the colony with such complaints, have been

known completely to recover. The dry atmosphere is favourable in all diseases of the chest.

Although founded but seventeen years, the first three of which were employed in surmounting the difficulties of settlement, yet the produce of the colony with such a small population, evinces a rapid progress towards prosperity, although it is not comparable to the other Australian colonies. The first introduction of sheep and cattle took place from the Cape of Good Hope and New South Wales. In 1836, the total number of sheep and cattle in Western Australia was, cattle 829, sheep 8,528, horses 216. Since then, the increase has been very considerable; and there are at present not less than 150,000 sheep, and 20,000 head of cattle, scattered over Western Australia.

Wool, therefore, forms the chief item in the produce of the colony. Oil comes next; and this is collected at the various whaling and sealing stations, which exist along the coast. Whalebone, and then live stock, agricultural produce, &c., are to be reckoned in their turn.

In 1834, the exports of the colony, chiefly at that period oil and whalebone, only amounted in value to £1,020; in 1835, they were £1,740; in 1837, they amounted to £6,096, whilst the imports were £45,401. During the previous years the imports had been still larger, generally exceeding annually £50,000 in value. This, of course, was caused by the influx of settlers in the early days of the colony, and the necessity that existed of importing, in the first place, the greater part of the food they consumed, and then providing stock to depasture the lands of the district.

Mahogany and satin-wood are common in various parts of Western Australia; there are many other descriptions of furniture-woods, and timber for ship-building exists in abundance. The exports for the years 1845 and 1846, were in value, as follows:

	1845.			1846.		
	To Great Britain.	Colonies.		To Great Britain.	Colonies.	
	£	£	s.	£	£	s.
Bark	100	...		112	27	0
Butter	...	5	0	...	...	
Cattle, Sheep, and Horses	...	687	0	...	830	0
Fruits and Herbs	...	5	0	...	...	
Gum	...	...		5	...	
Hides and Skins	...	86	0	...	136	15
Natural Curiosities	...	...		55	...	
Oil	3,250	165	10	1,255	1,886	15
Onions	...	40	0	...	67	10
Oats and other grain	...	123	0	...	...	
Potatoes	...	392	0	...	487	16
Sandal Wood	...	40	0	...	300	0
Salt Fish	...	273	0	...	76	0
Shingles	...	...		...	16	0
Charcoal	...	...		...	...	
Timber	...	...		5	250	0
Trenails	...	...		8	3	0
Tallow	...	12	0	...	10	0
Whalebone	780	33	0	874	323	0
Wool	7,219	37	19	10,600	2,762	19
Sundries	85	25	0	...	112	0
Totals	11,434	1,924	9	12,914	7,288	15
Grand total exports	£13,358 9s.			£20,202 15s.		

The imports of Western Australia have considerably decreased within the last twelve years, a fact which,

when we look at the increase of exports, displays prosperity and progress.

In 1834 the imports amounted, in round numbers, to £50,000; in 1844 they had decreased to £36,440; in 1845, they exhibited a further decrease, being £20,350, whilst in 1846 they increased, showing an amount of £25,959 4*s.* 4*d.*, but still exhibiting, in 1846, an excess of imports over exports to the amount of £5,736 9*s.* This difference, the colonists tell us, is much more than met by an annual Commissariat and Parliamentary expenditure, with that of some Missionary Societies, exceeding in amount £20,000; so that, in fact, after deducting the surplus of imports, £14,000 would appear to have gone to increase the wealth of the Colony in the year 1846. The exports of sandal-wood were very large in 1847.

The population of Western Australia being so small, yet requiring all the organization of a regular and efficient government, legislative and executive, it is not surprising that its revenue cannot as yet defray its entire expenditure, and that an annual grant for that purpose is voted by Parliament. The Colony is, therefore, at present far from a self-supporting one, but with its rapid increase of exports and its internal property, it only requires an accession of population to become so.

The present official or executive expenditure, irrespective of the Commissariat, is about £9,000 per annum in salaries and contingencies. The estimates for the year 1846 were £7,930, and the expenditure £7,966 5*s.* 1*d.* The estimated revenue for 1846 was £8,070, and the actual amount received £8,453 5*s.* 4*d.* The estimated

revenue for the year 1847, was stated in July by the Governor, Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Irwin, to be about £9,221 18*s.* 2*d.*, and the probable expenditure was made exactly to balance with that sum.

The price of labour in Western Australia varies much; there is little employment for mechanics or artisans: field-labourers, shepherds, and operatives of the like kind, receive from £15 to £20 per annum; but the rates of wages are increasing, for many of late have left for the more wealthy colonies to the eastward.

The following is the retail price current in the Colony, extracted from the "Perth Inquirer" for July, 1847.

RETAIL PRICES.

Articles of Colonial Produce and Export.

Bacon	per lb.	1*s.*
Bark	per ton	
Barley	per bushel	7*s.*
Biscuit	per cwt.	
Bran	per lb.	1*d.*
Bread	per 2-lb loaf.	5*d.*
Bricks	per 1000	£1 10*s.*
Butter, fresh	per lb.	2*s.*
——— salted	do.	1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
Cheese	do.	1*s.* 6*d.*
Eggs	per doz.	1*s.* 6*d.*
Flour, fine	per lb.	2*d.* to 2½*d.*
——— seconds	do.	
Gum	per cwt.	£1 3*s.*
Hams	per lb.	1*s.*
Hay	per ton	£7.
Hides	each	6*s*
Lard	per lb.	1*s.*

Laths	per 1000	25*s.*
Milk	per quart	4*d.*
Oil, black	per gallon	3*s.*
—— sperm	do.	
Pollard	per lb.	1¼*d.*
Potatoes	per cwt.	9*s.*
Sandal-wood	per ton	£7.
Shingles	per 1000	16*s.* to 18*s.*
Timber, boards	per 100 ft.	10*s.* to 12*s.*
——— scantling	do.	10*s.* to 12*s.*
Trenails	per 1000	£2 10*s.*
Wheat	per bushel	7*s.*
Wool	per lb.	10*d.*

Cattle, &c.

Bullocks, working	each	£7 to £10.
——— fat	do.	£7 to £10.
Cows	do.	£6 to £9.
Sheep, ewes	do.	6*s.* to 8*s.*
——— ewe lambs	do.	5*s.*
——— wethers	do.	10*s.* to 15*s.*
Goats	do.	3*s.* to 6*s.*
Pigs	per lb.	5*d.* to 6*d.*
Horses	each	£12 to £30.
Ponies	do.	£2 to £5.

Butcher's Meat, &c.

Mutton	per lb.	4*d.* to 5*d.*
Lamb	do.	6*d.*
Beef	do.	4*d.* to 5*d.*
Veal	do.	8*d.*
Pork	do.	8*d.*
Sausages	do.	1*s.*
Fowls	per pair	3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Ducks	do.	2*s.*
Geese	each	7*s.* to 8*s.*
Turkeys	do.	7*s.* to 10*s.*

IMPORTED ARTICLES.

Ale	per. hhd.	6*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.* (sc.)
— bottled	per doz	13*s.* to 14*s.* (sc.)
Bags, 3-bushel	each	2*s.* to 3*s.*
Blue	per lb.	2*s.*
Candles, wax	do.	3*s.* 6*d.*
——— sperm	do.	1*s.* 6*d.*
——— moulds	do.	8*d.*
——— dips	do.	
Canvas	per bolt	
Cheese	per lb.	1*s.* 6*d.*
Cigars, Manilla	per 1000	none
Coals	per ton	
Coffee	per lb.	5*d.*
Copper nails	do.	2*s.*
Cordage, English	do.	7*d.*
——— „ whaleline	do.	10*d.*
——— Manilla	do.	
Currants	do.	1*s.* 3*d.*
Deals, 9 x 3	per foot	10*d.*
Ginger	per lb.	6*d.*
Glue	do.	
Gunpowder, fine	do.	4*s.*
——— blasting	do.	1*s.* 6*d.* (scarce)
Hams, Yorkshire	do.	none
Herrings, red	per keg	none
Hops	per lb.	2*s.* 6*d.*
Iron, bar, assorted	do.	2½*d* to 6*d.*
Lead, sheet	per ton	none
Molasses	per lb	6*d.*
Mustard	do.	2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
Nails, assorted	do.	6*d.* to 7*d.*
—— shingle	do.	(scarce)
Oil, linseed	per gallon	8*s.*
— salad	per pt. bottle	2*s.* 6*d.*
Pepper	per lb.	6*d.*

Pickles, pints		1*s.* 6*d.*
——— quarts		2*s.* 6*d.*
Pitch	per barrel	none
Porter	per hhd.	6*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.* (scarce)
——— bottled	per doz.	13*s.* to 14*s.* (scarce)
Raisins, Cape	per lb.	8*d.*
Rice	do.	2½*d.*
Resin	do.	none
Sago	do.	3*d.* to 6*d.*
Salt	per basket	
Soap	per lb.	6*d.*

Spirits.

Brandy	per gallon	17*s.* to 18*s.*
Geneva	do.	15*s.* to 16*s.*
——— in 1-dozen cases	per case	30*s.* to 32*s.*
Rum, 25 O. P.	per gallon	15*s.*
Starch	per lb.	7*d.*
Sugar, moist	do.	none
—— refined	do.	1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Tar	per barrel	none
Tea, black	per lb.	2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*
— green	do.	3*s.*
Tobacco, in bond	do.	11*d.*
Turpentine	per gallon	none
Vinegar	do.	1*s.* 6*d.* (scarce)

Wines.

Cape	per qr. cask	4*l.* 15*s.*
„	per gallon	5*s.*
Champagne	per dozen	none
Claret	do.	none
Madeira	per pipe	none
——— bottled	per dozen	30*s.*
Marsala	per qr. cask	7*l.*
„	per gallon	7*s.* 6*d.*
Port	per pipe	none

Port, bottled	per dozen	35*s.*
Sherry	per qr. cask	8*l.* 10*s.*
——— bottled	per dozen	20*s.* to 30*s.*
Teneriffe	per qr. cask	6*l.*
„	per gallon	6*s.*
Wool-bagging	per yard	8*d.*
Woolpacks	each	5*s.*

The principal excisable articles are spirits, wines, tea, coffee, and sugar; the aggregate amount of these imported in 1846 was £6,663; an *ad valorem* duty of a moderate computation is imposed on all manufactured and most other goods.

The government in this Colony, like that of most other British possessions, is conducted by a Governor appointed at home, aided by Executive and Legislative Councils appointed by the Crown. The latter body, the Governor being president, have the power to make laws for the Colony, which are subject to the approbation of the Sovereign. In consequence of the absence of convicts, with which most of the other Australian Colonies are afflicted, the chief labour of the legislative body has not been in framing laws, but in adopting English Acts of Parliament; the law is, therefore, very similar to what it is in Great Britain.

One Judge performs all judicial duties, both civil and criminal; an Advocate-General performs the offices of Attorney, Solicitor-General, and Crown Prosecutor; he also privately practises in the civil courts; the functions of a Grand Jury are besides entrusted to him, such a body not existing in the Colony.

The other chief executive officers are a Colonial Sec-

retary, Surveyor-General, Sheriff, and several Police Magistrates, one for each district; the number of the latter is seven or eight, and these magistrates dispose of the greater part of the minor offences, with the aid of unpaid Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor from amongst the most respectable of the settlers.

The executive defrays the expense of a Colonial Chaplain of the Established Church; besides this Rev. Gentleman the Church Missionary Society have in the Colony several zealous gentlemen employed in their ministry, both amongst the white population and the aborigines; they have particularly applied themselves to the attempt of inducing the latter to adopt the habits and employments of their white brethren, but the endeavour has not as yet met with much success.

The Wesleyans and Roman Catholics also have ministers of their respective creeds; and, on the whole, both religion and education seem well attended to in this young community.

Although so limited in number, the Western Australians can boast of no less than three newspapers, exclusive of the Government Gazette. These are conducted with energy and ability, particularly the "Perth Inquirer," whose editor is not only a scholar and a gentleman, but also an able and zealous advocate for his adopted land.

It certainly does seem strange, that in this young colony there should actually exist one paper for every thousand inhabitants, including all ages; but the fact speaks well for the character of the people—for their desire for information and thirst after knowledge.

CHAPTER II.

THE ABORIGINES—POPULATION—SITUATION—WHALING AND SEALING —HABITS AND MODE OF LIFE—MINERALS—ANIMALS—PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS.

LIKE all other races discovered on the mainland of New Holland, the aborigines of Western Australia are a migratory race; dwelling for no period of time at any one place, and constructing only the most rude and simple erections, to shelter them from the heavy dews of summer and the severe rains of the winter nights. The number of the aborigines of Western Australia is not great, perhaps in the whole not exceeding 4,000; yet they are more numerous in proportion to the extent of country they inhabit than in any other settled part of New Holland. This, in some measure, may be accounted for by the fact that game, fish, seals, and other necessaries for the support of savage life, are more plentiful than in other explored parts of the country.

Sunk in the lowest depths of ignorance and superstition, a settled conviction prevails that there is no such thing as a natural death; and all loss of life from

natural or other causes is considered to be occasioned by some enemy of the deceased, by magic, or by dark incantations or spells. They also believe in many deities; but the evil one presiding over the night, of whom they have an indistinct and undefined, yet a vivid impression, is the one most dreaded.

The dead are generally committed to the flames, if of the male sex and adults; but when they are women or children, the bodies are merely suspended amongst the branches of a tree, out of reach of the "wanagils," or native dogs; but sometimes this slight attention is not even paid to the deceased wife;—the corpse is left where the spirit has passed away, to afford a meal to the wild dogs, as soon as the tribe vacate the encampment.

Acute and intelligent, the aborigines display much shrewdness in their dealings with the whites; they are, at times, induced to remain months, and even years, at some of the settlers' stations, but civilized life is invariably cast off at some time or the other, and they return to the boundless woods and wandering vagrant habits of their race. Amongst the sealing and whaling stations on the coast, many are to be found taking a busy part in the proceedings at these places, pulling a willing oar, in the chase, or felling timber wherewith to try out the oil.

Although many collisions have taken place between the aborigines and the whites, yet they have not been attended with that sweeping and rapid extermination of the race that has been effected in other parts of Australia. Outrages have been perpetrated upon the

persons and property of the whites, yet they have not been avenged by that wild and ruthless barbarity which would sacrifice scores of imperfectly armed and comparatively defenceless children of nature to the *manes* of one white man.

Although, however, few fall under the hands of the white settlers, the diseases introduced by the new comers, aided by the custom of infanticide and the constant state of hostility in which the tribes exist, are gradually thinning their numbers; and, in all probability, before the lapse of half a century, they will be spoken of as a people that have been, and whose existence is only recorded in the page of history. The Western Australian Missionary Society have laboured zealously for their redemption and civilization, but "the seed has been sown in barren soil, and will bring forth no fruit."

The admixture of the white and black races does not present a hope for these children of the wilds; for when an aboriginal woman brings forth a child, begotten by a white father, it is invariably sacrificed by her male relatives. Woman is sunk to the lowest state of degradation amongst these people; the offices most menial and of the greatest drudgery are performed by her, the only reward being the scoffs and blows of her lord and master, who flings to her the remnant of his meal, when repletion has done its work upon his besotted senses. Nor can any efforts of the missionaries induce the warriors to look upon their helpmates in any other light than as slaves; the very mode of acquiring these wives tends to this feeling; as without the existence

of any previous feeling of affection, the aboriginal warrior, when in want of a wife, prowls in the neighbourhood of some other tribe until he detects some wandering individual of the weaker sex, whom—whether wife, maid, or widow—he immediately drags off to his own tribe, where he at once installs her in his mia mia, or miserable substitute for a habitation, which is constructed in the same way as those of all the other Australian aborigines —with bark or a few boughs of trees.

Somewhat different in appearance, and rather more intelligent than the aboriginal population of the eastern coast, the native race of Western Australia seem destined by Providence to act the part merely of pioneers to the first civilized people who have inhabited and settled the vast regions of New Holland. As they pass away, they leave behind them not a vestige that will exist beyond a few fleeting years; even the principal native animals, associated by nature with them, are vanishing more rapidly than themselves from the face of the land.

But as they have been passing from creation, they have performed their allotted task; and the fires of the dark child of the forest have cleared the soil, the hills, and the valleys of much of the superabundant scrub and timber that covered the country, and presented a bar to its occupation. Now, prepared by the hands of the lowest race in the scale of humanity that is known to exist, the soil of these extensive regions is ready to receive the virgin impressions of civilized man. No tombs, nor temples, nor palaces, nor shrines, exist to tell of the past; the history of the land remains

to be written in the future, when nations of the Anglo-Saxon race people the woods and valleys of Australia, and with their enterprise and energy cover the land with evidences of their greatness.

The increase of the white population has been extremely slow, in comparison with other Australian colonies. Neither transportation nor a land fund has lent its aid to increase the number of inhabitants. One thousand, at least, of the original settlers were brought to the colony at the expense of Mr. Thomas Peel and his friends, who have derived up to the present time little advantage from the outlay.

Since its first settlement the colony has possessed a fairer proportion of the sexes than is general in new countries; and this has considerably promoted the morality of the place.

No part of New Holland is better situated for trade and commerce, than Western Australia. Embracing the entire south-west corner of the continent, it lies in the direct track of vessels bound to the southern and eastern colonies, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific.

When steam communication is established, as it immediately will be, between England and her Australian possessions, *viâ* India, it is more than probable, that King George's Sound will become a grand central depôt for the vessels engaged in the trade, as it is the most central point for them.

The situation of this country is advantageous for supplying the Mauritius or Isle of France, not only with wheat and other grain, but with live stock and fish, which are in great demand there, and bring a high price; the

fish being cured at and imported from the Cape of Good Hope at present, and the live stock brought from Madagascar or the eastern coast of Africa, near the Mozambique Channel.

Western Australia is also well situated for a trade with India and China, and in sandal-wood the colonists possess an article in great demand in China, and a source of a profitable trade; they receive in return tea, &c. Three weeks' sail nearer to England than New South Wales, this circumstance may be considered as an advantage by many emigrants.

The shores of Western Australia are at certain seasons resorted to by large numbers of whales to calve, and the numerous bays along the coast offer sites for stations, where during the season whaling may be carried on with a few boats; and at other times the men would find employment in sealing, large bodies of seals of the fur kind being found on the coasts of the many small islands.

At present there are five or six whaling stations, the chief of which is on the southern coast, not far from King George's Sound. This station is the property of a Mr. Skerratt, and within the last five years this enterprising colonist has built several small vessels of colonial timber at the Bay, to which the proprietor has given the name of Torbay: the vessels were between one and two hundred tons each, suitable for the coasting trade. The several whaling stations have been prosperous, and have paid their proprietors well; but for want of means, none are on a large scale; the most extensive not manning five boats.

The habits and mode of life of the great part of the settlers of Western Australia, are truly primitive; they consist in sending their flocks and herds on the grassy downs, or amongst the lightly-timbered forests at the feet of the Darling Range. The population are much scattered, thinly studding the explored country, wherever good water and a fertile soil induce them to fix the site of their abode.

On the banks of the Swan are several neat and well-cultivated farms, particularly in the neighbourhood of Perth, which at present possesses about eight hundred inhabitants.

For a great part of the year, the settlers are, as it were, isolated from the rest of the world; the arrival or departure of vessels from or for home are periods of interest and excitement in the young colony; an odd vessel from India or the Eastern colonies occasionally breaks in on the quiet of the scene, and affords a topic of conversation for at least a month to the population, more than half of whom are in the vicinity of the banks of the Swan, at the mouth of which is the anchorage for vessels, which is rather open and exposed, a heavy swell rolling in at times. Twelve months have often elapsed without any communication with the other Australian colonies; the route always being by sea; and for nine months in the year the prevailing winds being westerly, ships coming from the east have long passages.

The vast extent of country between Swan River and the eastern settlements of Australia, has hitherto remained unexplored; but since Governor Fitzroy has been at the head of affairs in New South Wales, he has materially

promoted internal discoveries. At the present time there is an expedition on the road across the central part of New Holland, for the purpose of exploring the country, and opening a route. The task is certainly a Herculean one, and the greatest as yet undertaken in Australia. The expedition is under the direction of Dr. Leichardt, a persevering and hardy traveller. It left Sydney in the early part of the year 1847, and the Western Australians would be anxiously looking out for its arrival, about the month of September. Its success is, however, questionable; but great hopes are entertained from the well-known ability and perseverance of its conductor*.

The mineral wealth of the colony has been very imperfectly explored—in fact, hardly so at all. Coal has, however, been found, but not made available, the colonists not requiring it. Chromate of lead has also been discovered, and specimens of copper ore have been brought parts from the northern part of the colony. As in all other of Australia, various descriptions of iron ore exist in abundance, but none of the minerals have been worked, nor are they likely to be, for years, without a considerable accession of population.

The animal world is very limited, and similar to that of New South Wales or South Australia. The kangaroo is the largest animal, and affords a chief part of the sustenance of the aborigines, who are particularly expert in surprising and killing it. Opossums, kangaroo rats, tuans, native cats—diminutive black and white creatures —are very abundant. The birds are both numerous and

* Since the above was written, Dr. Leichardt has returned to Sydney unsuccessful in his expedition.

beautiful, yet strange to say, there is not one amongst them that gives forth a musical note; the cry or scream of all is discordant in the extreme. Parrots are innumerable, and their plumage most brilliant; cockatoos, both of the black and white species, are equally numerous; and a few specimens of the rare bird of Paradise, have been shot in the ranges inland. Black swans, wild ducks, and other water-fowl are in abundance; and during certain seasons, myriads of mutton birds, or in ornithology *procellaria fuliginosa*, resort to the numerous small islands off the southern coast.

Originally settled in 1829, the progress of Western Australia has but badly kept pace with the rapid strides of the other Australian colonies, on their road to wealth and prosperity. Whilst they have offered unexampled instances of development, this colony has crept slowly and gradually along. Yet, perhaps, not one of them was founded with brighter hopes, and under more powerful promoters, than Western Australia. Mr. Thomas Peel had both vast Ministerial influence and wealth, to bring to the aid of his scheme of colonisation. Captain Sterling, now Sir James, was an active and intelligent man; deeply interested in the colony, both on account of his private interests which were involved, and the fact of the representations respecting it which he had made, and which in a great measure determined its original settlement.

But the foundation, although good in many particulars, was rotten in some of the main parts. The site of the first settlement, near the mouth of the Swan, was ill chosen; the land was sandy and barren, ill repaying the first exertions of the settlers, who, in consequence,

became dissatisfied with their condition, and insubordinate.

The eyes of the people of England had been anxiously turned on Mr. Peel's project of colonisation. The scheme on which it was based was a good one, and numbers who did not wish to share in the hardships of a first settlement, were only waiting the lapse of a year or two, to take advantage of the liberal terms offered by the Government, to obtain land. But alas! the accounts, complaints, and descriptions that arrived from the settlement, soon put to flight all such ideas; and secured for Western Australia such a thoroughly bad name, that she yet labours under the effect of it, emigrants being deterred from proceeding thither. This, and this alone, has been the chief cause of the slow progress of the colony.

We repeat, Western Australia presents many advantages to emigrants. The decreased distance from England, the salubrity of its climate, its advantageous position for commerce, its nearness to the fine market of the Mauritius, and its exemption as far as is yet known, from long continued droughts,—these are, or should be, incentives to enterprise. Water also is plentiful; and the land, although in most places light, yet in others is capable of bearing the richest crops for years to come, without the application of manure.

Minerals, the commodities most conducive to the prosperity of a country, are also known to exist; and—one great and powerful recommendation—the colony is pure—free from the foul leprosy of felony, stamped upon so many other portions of New Holland.

Yet, oppressed with early ill success, Western Australia, shut out—as it were in a nook—from the rest of Australia, is scarcely spoken of; yet the result of an open overland route, will be, to draw attention to the colony, to cause its vast lands and mineral resources to be explored, and with steam navigation to aid, before the lapse of half a century, the hills and valleys of this country will be covered with a population, British in enterprise, connexion, and feeling—another great family of the Anglo-Saxon race.

EMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

REMARKS UPON EMIGRATION AS CONDUCTED AT PRESENT, AND MODES SUGGESTED BY WHICH IT MAY BE EXTENSIVELY PROMOTED.

ALTHOUGH Great Britain is justly entitled to the distinction of being the great colonising nation of modern times, yet, she owes this character to individual enterprise, and the energy and perseverance of her sons; not to the wisdom of her statesmen or any great national exertion. In the latter respect, both Spain and France have been much before her, and the success in colonization of these two countries must have been commensusately great and lasting, had the materials they wrought with been as sound and staunch. But the general character of the Spaniard and Frenchman is not favourable to the formation of good colonists; and if they do prosper and take permanent root in new countries, it is always more or less in connexion with others of a different mental temperament and disposition.

Spain colonised her vast South American possessions after a manner which must, even in the present day,

extort applause and admiration. She did not confine herself to peopling those lands with executive officers, soldiers, and the lower classes of her children. She transferred to the shores of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and even to the still more distant spice islands—Manilla—every element of her social system, from the proud and noble hidalgo down to the lowest menial.

France in this particular followed the example of her neighbour, and some of the best blood of the old *régime* flows in the veins of the landed proprietary of Lower Canada.

With respect to Great Britain this is not at all the case; the emigrants that leave her shores for the purpose of becoming colonists are either driven to take this step in consequence of their inability to make out a livelihood at home, or for the purpose of following mercantile pursuits. We seldom or never hear of a man of large property transferring himself and his dependants to any of Great Britain's colonies. We never learn that a landed proprietor in England has disposed of his broad acres, with the intent of purchasing large tracts in new countries; emigration and colonization are in this country almost exclusively confined to the absolutely needy, or the man of moderate means, whose increasing family or small capital, holds out the prospect of but a sorry future for him at home.

It was somewhat different in the days of Elizabeth, of the first Charles, and the Protector. Religious persecution and civil warfare were then rife in England, and drove many of rank and station to the British possessions in North America. Virginia, Pennsylvania, and several

of the seaboard states of the Union, were then first colonised by men, whom political persecution or religious zeal had driven from their native land.

But these causes have long since ceased to operate as inducements to emigrate from England; political opinions no longer subject those who hold them to the block or the prison, and religious zeal may be indulged without any obnoxious interdict or savage persecution.

The higher and middle ranks of society in Great Britain are at present ill disposed to emigration; yet, at no period was it so necessary for their own benefit and the interests of their children. The Government also seem little inclined to promote such a course, and if any exertion is made, it is merely one of momentary expediency—to transport some few thousand starving Irish or industrious British poor to a place where their complaints will cease to be heard.

The colonies, advancing in wealth, and only requiring labour to develop their resources, are either handed over to the tender mercies of land-jobbing companies, or a sop is thrown to them, to stay their clamour; there is no system, no continuous scheme; all is done by fits and starts. No exertion is made by good representative Government in the colonies, and *permanent* land regulations, to induce the emigration of the upper classes of society. Even the able-bodied poor linger in Union Workhouses, their labour unrequired at home, whilst millions of acres, in almost every quarter of the globe, are possessed by Britain, whither they might be transferred, with benefit to themselves and manifold advantages to the country of their birth.

Yet, abandoned to their own resources, tens of thousands of the lower classes annually seek a home beyond the ocean waters. The greater portion of these proceed either to the British North American possessions, or to the United States. Under bad regulations; without system, control, or careful superintendence, they cross the wide Atlantic, crammed into the holds of ill-found, ill-ventilated ships. Their fate is a fearful one: disease and death overshadow them, and beneath the deep blue waves, they find a premature grave, or with debilitated constitutions they are landed in America, to die at quarantine stations, or gradually to sink beneath the severities of a prolonged and rigorous winter.

It is calculated that upwards of one hundred thousand emigrants left the ports of Great Britain and Ireland for the British North American possessions alone, during the spring, summer, and autumn of 1847. There being few regular packet ships trading to those colonies, these emigrants chiefly embarked in ships chartered for the purpose, by passenger agents, or in vessels proceeding out for cargoes of timber.

It is notoriously the fact, that few ships are put into the North American timber trade, until they are past use for any other purpose, many of them being barely seaworthy.

The great majority of the timber ships have been originally built for cargo vessels, so their accommodation for passengers is merely what the hold affords, or more properly speaking, the false deck over the lower hold. Light and air are, in bad weather, alike excluded, and in fine weather the supply is but scanty; yet, down in the depths and

recesses of these ships, hundreds of human beings are huddled together, without distinction of age, sex, or condition. In the May of 1847, the author had occasion to proceed on business to Cork, and there met with the captain of a ship whom he had known well abroad. This person had been to sea for many years as a Commander, and the ship of which he was Captain was then lying at Cove, taking in emigrants. She was an old Liverpool vessel of about six hundred tons measurement, and for the last two or three years had been employed in the Quebec timber trade, being too leaky for any other. She had been chartered by the agent of a large landholder in the south of Ireland, to take out a number of the tenantry, of whom he was anxious to get rid. She was to have five hundred pounds for the trip out, the landlord putting on board the necessary provisions, and sending out a person in her to distribute them. This sum included the expense of laying a temporary false deck, and fitting up berths; the ship having no deck but her upper one. For this amount, there was put on board the utmost number of emigrants the law allows, which, including children, amounted to about five hundred souls, and with this human freight she sailed for her destination—Quebec, without even the services of a surgeon being provided for the unfortunate wretches.

The result may be readily foreseen: before she had been out a week from her port of departure, in the close, crowded, and poisonous atmosphere of the dark hold, fever was engendered and disseminated, and for the five remaining weeks, till she entered the St. Lawrence and landed her sick at Gros Island, not a day passed that

many were not consigned to a watery grave. All the exertions of Captain and crew were unavailing to stay the pestilence; the closeness of the berths, the open planking of the temporary deck—between the wide joints of which, all kinds of matter collected—bade defiance to their efforts, to which some even fell victims, and death did its fatal work rapidly.

Either at sea, or after they had been landed at the Quarantine Station, rather more than one-third of the passengers died, and the greater part of the remainder were so enfeebled by long sickness and impure air, as to leave small hopes of their surviving the severe winter of Canada; more especially as few had the means of providing themselves during that time with even the necessaries of life. But scattered over the back-woods and forests of these regions, those unfortunates will drop and pass away one by one, with none to tell of their sufferings and hold up their fate to the administration of Great Britain, as a reason for adopting system, supervision, and care, over those who seek her colonies.

If another and yet more appalling example of the present mode in which emigration is conducted were required, it is to be found in the case of the Avon, which was brought into Miramichi in a disabled state—indeed, little better than a wreck.

This unfortunate vessel was not only badly ventilated, but it was without a surgeon. From the first she had met with bad weather, which aggravated all her disadvantages, and so injured the ship, as to cause her to proceed but slowly towards her destination. Fever broke out and spread with fearful rapidity; to follow or trace

it in its course would be needless; first the passengers and then the crew died away, till there were not enough left to aid the sick and bury the dead.

And then, from a passenger emigrant vessel, she became a demon ship; the frenzy of worse than maniacs descended on her unhappy people; and the living refused to part with the dead, and either clasped the putrefying corpses in their arms, or sewing them up in beds and enclosing them in boxes, insisted on retaining them. The food of the living was no longer cooked, but devoured raw, and the Captain and crew were refused admission to the hold. And then such a scene ensued, as the most fearful pictures of God's vengeance, exemplified in the plague in days long gone by, could scarcely parallel.

Driven to desperation, the Captain and those that remained of his crew, by force of arms, fought their way to the hold and dispossessed the living of the dead. The limbs dropping asunder and parting in the grasp, the awful relics of mortality were drawn forth from their hiding-places and consigned to the deep. Yet, still did the angel of death hover around the devoted ship. The emigrants still continued to die, and one by one, the sailors passed away, till none were left to work the ship. The Captain, one of his officers, and two or three others attached to the vessel, alone remained to do duty; even these were fast sinking. In vain did the Commander, with his livid and skeleton hands, cut with an axe large pieces out of the decks to admit air and light, forgetting at the moment the inevitable destruction of the vessel in case of bad weather, from this cause.

At length the fated ship reached the shores of America, and with some difficulty obtained the aid of a steamer which towed her into her destined port; but more than one-half her human freight had perished, and many, very many more would shortly follow their comrades.

Thus it is that Great Britain colonises—thus she abandons thousands of her children to their own ignorance and folly, and the grasping of passenger-agents and ship-owners, who create "demon ships" on the wide waters of the Atlantic, in order to satisfy their cupidity, by crowding unsuitable vessels with the utmost number of passengers the law allows. This should be amended; and all ships carrying passengers be forced to take a surgeon. To occasional and private, as well as Government emigration ships, should an extended system of supervision and regulation be applied, and any discovered default severely punished. In short, the lives of emigrants should be preserved, irrespective of the cost or difficulty. He asks not much who asks this.

When so many thousands of the lower classes leave Great Britain annually, subject to the present mode of emigration, how many more would do so, if a sound and healthy system were adopted and enforced by Government. Not only is the great mass of emigrants at present subjected to extreme perils and privation on their passage, but on arriving in their adopted land, their means of employment and future livelihood are quite a matter of chance.

There are not now in Canada those extensive public works to employ emigrants that there were some years

since; their main dependance is on being hired, and when the labour-market is overstocked, this chance is but a poor one. How much better would it be, if the emigrant, on leaving home for a colony, were ensured remunerative employment for a certain time. This could be effected, by largely promoting the emigration of the upper and middle classes.

It is always injurious and hurtful to the prospects of a colony, to flood it with labour one year and send none to it the next. The supply should never exceed the demand, otherwise an injury instead of a benefit is the result; and the probable healthy demand should always be first ascertained from facts, not from mere report. Of late years this has been strongly exemplified in several signal instances. Five years since, there was such a superfluity of labour in New South Wales, that the greatest distress prevailed; at that period in both the States and in Canada, it was quite the reverse; hands were not to be had, and wages were extremely high. Now the picture is changed; the most exorbitant wages are paid in New South Wales and the Australian Colonies, whilst thousands in Canada and the States are unable to procure a day's work, and are on the verge of starvation in a land of plenty.

All this tends still further to show the want of system in emigration from Great Britain, and how much it is required. Perhaps the utmost, at a fair computation, that the great British Colonies of Australia, Southern Africa, and North America, could annually absorb in their present state, would little exceed 100,000 persons; but if an emigration of the middle and upper classes

were simultaneously carried out, this might be prodigiously extended, without prejudice to the labour-markets of the colonies.

By the promotion of free representative bodies in the colonies, and by means of Waste Crown Lands, the Author considers that this system of joint emigration might be promoted. The Writer would first of all suggest, that the Government of the colonies and the administration of the waste lands should be placed on a *permanent* basis, and consequently not liable to be disturbed according to the policy of each new Secretary of State; this would give that confidence which is now so much wanting; for all interested in the colonies feel that their property is constantly subject to fluctuation, according to the acts of the Secretary for the Colonies for the time being.

Security and stability once given to colonial property, this question would next arise, How are we to promote the emigration of all classes by means of the waste lands?

At present, the Land Fund of the Australian Colonies is chiefly devoted to the purposes of emigration; the waste lands being first sold on the spot, and the proceeds applied under the authority of Her Majesty's Colonization and Emigration Commissioners.

This plan the Author would propose to amend, by disposing of waste lands in England as well as in the Colonies. This could be done by the purchaser depositing at home the standard price per acre, to the extent he might require. A certificate should be then handed to him of this deposit, and notice forwarded to the par-

ticular colony. These certificates should entitle the holder, according to the priority of his issue, to a choice of the unsold waste lands in the Colony, he being obliged to make his selection within a reasonable and stated period. When the choice had been made, possession ought at once to be given; and even if the ground were unsurveyed, a temporary occupation might be permitted, the survey being at the earliest opportunity completed. One of the chief causes of the failure of colonization in New Zealand, arose from the settlers being kept so long without possession of their lands.

Mines and their produce, and the complete fee of all waste lands, should be surrendered without reservation to the purchaser.

A certain portion of the purchase-money, in proportion to its amount and the extent of family, should be allowed the depositor to defray the cost of their passage. He should also be entitled to have the conveyance free of charge of such agricultural, pastoral, and other servants as should be approved of by agents appointed by the Government, to an extent equal to three-fourths of the money deposited, collectively with the amount allowed himself and family. This course would ensure much better servants and labourers than the plan now pursued. Each depositor should be allowed to make any agreement he might think fit with these servants, provided that the term should not exceed two years; but the master should be bound, for that period, to support or find employment for the persons engaged. It would then be the interest of all parties taking out servants, to ascertain their suitability, character, and

honesty. At present, under the loose plan existing, scores of mechanics, from whose labour employers will derive no benefit in the Colony, pass themselves off as labourers, shepherds, &c., and their sisters or relatives as wives, and thus obtain a free passage, by these means defrauding the "Land Fund." The extent of the free passages afforded is, however, at present limited, and they are either to New South Wales, Australia Felix, South Australia, or the Cape of Good Hope. The remaining fourth of the amount deposited should go to form a fund in the Colony, of which the executive should have the administration for the formation of roads, bridges, and other necessary public works.

The fact of having their passage defrayed, and that of their servants also paid out of the purchase-money of their lands, would act as a strong incentive to all persons of the middle and upper classes to emigrate to British Colonies.

The fullest and most correct description should be given by the agents of the Government to all intending emigrants, of the quality, situation, extent, advantages, and disadvantages of the Colony whither they might purpose going. The truth in all these matters should be carefully observed, and no highly coloured or fictitious descriptions held forth; this is important as regards not only the emigrant but the Colony, for both would ultimately suffer from misrepresentation.

One great bar against the emigration of the upper classes at present, is the want of religious and educational provision in many of the colonies. If a large number of the professors of one creed would unite at

home for the purpose, they might be permitted to take with them a clergyman of their own choice. The number to be entitled to this privilege might, in the first instance, be three hundred, masters and servants included; and the chosen minister should, on his arrival in the colony, become entitled to a salary of £100 per annum, and a small grant of land free, for the site of a church and dwelling-house. When the congregation of the pastor increased to five hundred, he should be entitled to an augmentation of salary, say to £150 per annum, and so on. The erection of suitable churches might be left entirely to the people, except, of course, as regards the grant of land.

Education should be promoted by a grant from the Executive Department of the Colony, of a certain sum per scholar for public schools, provided always that the parent or guardian paid not less than a similar amount.

There is no question, that if the foregoing suggestions were carried into effect, many private individuals would be found, who would become the purchasers of such an extent of Waste Crown Lands, as would enable them to establish separate communities with all these advantages. This would naturally lead to local centralization, which is desirable in a moral and religious point of view; but no compulsory means should be used to force it, for dispersion in the first instance is, in many countries, the most healthy mode of producing ultimate centralization. It is a bad plan first to build and people a town, and then only to bestow attention upon tillage, and the advantages of pasture and agriculture: Adelaide, in its early days, was a striking proof of this.

In the choice of land, purchasers should be assisted by the Colonial Executive Officers on the spot, and the advantage of a plentiful supply of water should, if possible, be ensured, and a healthy situation recommended.

The present price of Crown Land varies in different colonies; in Canada and New Brunswick it may be obtained as low as 4*s.* per acre, and from that price upwards, according to situation and soil.

Much of the soil of New Brunswick and Canada (Upper,) is in the hands of large land-jobbing companies, who sell on credit at increased prices; the old grantees of James and Charles's time also, in the persons of their descendants, yet retain much of the land in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and these are competitors in the land market with the Crown, which does not there possess a monopoly of the waste lands.

At the Cape Colony the price of land likewise varies much, but it is generally from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* per acre. In all the Australasian colonies, except New Zealand, the standard upset price of waste land is £1 per acre. The New Zealand Company disposed of none of their land at less than £1 per acre; but waste lands in the islands are to be purchased from private individuals, particularly towards the Bay of Islands and the River Thames, at a much lower rate.

It will be seen from this statement, that in case of the Colonial Office disposing of the waste Crown lands at home, it would be necessary to fix a standard price for each, (in the Australian colonies this is already the case.) This might easily be done by taking the average of each place, which would be a matter of little difficulty.

One of the greatest burdens under which colonists labour, is their subjection to irresponsible executive officers, in the matter of local improvements. This should be amended; and when a population of a district becomes sufficiently large, purely local matters should be entirely entrusted to themselves.

Another grievance that colonists labour under is, the description and character of the executive officers of the Government, more especially the stipendiary magistrates. The chief part of these are old officers in the army and navy, whose strict habits of discipline and formality are totally unsuited to the positions they occupy. Many of them have proceeded to the colonies as settlers, but proving unfortunate, and having some interest, they excite the compassion of the Governors, who provide for them in this way, at the expense of the public: the Governors themselves being almost without exception military or naval men, they are the more easily moved on behalf of their "cloth."

The power of executive officers, more particularly stipendiary magistrates, is very great in the colonies, and it is most important, that if possible they should in a manner be made responsible to the inhabitants. This might be effected by forming the population of a district into a corporate body, whose chief officers for the time being should be *ex officio* presiding magistrates. Thus, the colonists would have an opportunity afforded at the elections, of removing any of those whose conduct had not met with approval in the exercise of their powers.

At present, the colonies apparently are chiefly made use of as the means of providing situations for the

younger sons of high families, retired naval or military officers, and the connexions of persons in office. Thus are the colonists subjected to the tyranny, oppression, and abuse of power by incompetent persons, whom they can neither remove nor coerce to proper conduct, without application to the Colonial Office in England. Great indeed must be the evil complained of, when resort is had to this all but hopeless remedy. Representations from a colony can only be received through the Governor of that colony, who possesses the fullest power of laying his own statements, ideas, and opinions, before the Colonial Minister, who thus in a manner sees with another's eyes and hears with another's ears.

Involved in a constant round of exciting topics and ideas intimately connected with the welfare of Great Britain and Ireland, and the local interests of the kingdom, the voice of the colonists wafted across the ocean-waters, falls but lightly on the public ear; their complaints and remonstrances may occasionally be represented by some solitary member of Parliament, or the *Times* or others of the leading papers may devote an occasional column to their affairs; but these are few and far between, and regarded with but little general attention.

The interests of the colonists are neglected, from their having no powerful body to represent them in London: separate agents, indeed, some of them have, and many individuals are interested in the welfare of particular places; but without association, they are not sufficiently powerful or influential to draw public attention to the circumstances of any particular case.

New Zealand is an exception to this rule; a powerful body of merchants and men of rank and wealth were associated with a view to the settlement and colonization of these islands; and when through misgovernment, ruin and bankruptcy fell upon the Company, their friends and connexions rose in the House of Commons, taxed the Minister with the faults and follies of the Colonial Office, and were sufficiently powerful to extort from Sir Robert Peel an admission of wrong, and a promise of amendment, and pecuniary aid in re-establishing the interests of the Company. If other colonies were thus aided, and their interests advocated, how differently would they be situated, and how much more of prosperity would they enjoy.

England at the present time possesses, perhaps, the largest colonial empire that ever existed; "the chart of our colonies is a chart of the world—for we sweep the globe and touch every shore," yet essentially and truly are these vast possessions committed to the sole jurisdiction of a single Minister in England, whose power, both for good and evil, over them is almost unlimited. Dominions that "compass the earth" are entrusted to one man, who, if the ablest that the world ever saw, would yet be far from being competent to the just administration of their varied interests. And what has been the result of this system?—a general bankruptcy; in fact the total ruin of the planters of the West Indies; a long, expensive, and harassing war with the Caffres in the Cape Colony; the creation of such a state of society in Van Dieman's Land, as has induced all the free population who possibly can do so to leave the island; and such a scarcity of

labour in New South Wales, as to give rise to the importation of the cannibals of the New Hebrides into that country to supply the want.

It is not the purpose of the Author to enlarge upon these facts—they may speak for themselves, and in doing so, act as a powerful incentive to induce a better mode of proceeding with regard to the vast colonial possessions of Great Britain.

Already in this chapter has the Author presumed to suggest a method by which extensive private emigration might be promoted; he now takes the liberty of drawing attention to a mode by which colonization and emigration might be advantageously carried out through the means of the Poor Law Unions of the kingdom.

Heretofore, at various periods, the Poor Law Unions have sent out paupers as emigrants, but on no regular system; many of these have been forwarded to the Cape Colony, and are to be found in the neighbourhood of Graham's Town and the Eastern Province.

That emigration may be carried out successfully by the Poor Law Unions of Great Britain, there should be a regular system laid down, and a Central Board established in London, for the control and management of pauper emigration.

At the present moment, in many of the agricultural Unions, there are able-bodied men and women who are during half the year in the receipt of out-door relief, from the insufficiency of employment or the extremely low rate of wages. How much better would it be if the parish were relieved of this surplus labour, and of a continued drain on its resources. The outlay

necessary to afford this relief would not more than exceed four or five years' expenditure on those persons at home; and instead of having them in their old age completely thrown on the poor rates for support, they might be transferred to a country where they could obtain wherewithal to support them in their declining days.

One great and, indeed, important objection that would arise against the establishment of an extensive system of pauper emigration is, the large sum required to send out and equip any number, and the total loss to the Union of the outlay of that sum. But in the first place, the permanent relief afforded to the Union by the decrease of its pauper population, should induce of itself such a yearly application of its funds as would enable a moderate number of those generally dependent on the rates for support, to emigrate without extensively burthening or forestalling the revenues of the Union. And, in the next place, emigration from a Union might be made of itself the means of providing further funds for the continuance of the system.

The Author would suggest that, for every pauper sent out by a Union, a grant of land should be made, in proportion to the cost of the pauper's passage and the value of land in the Colony whither he is sent. For instance if a Union were to send out to New South Wales twenty adult male and female able-bodied paupers, whose passage would cost about £15 per head, the Union should have a right to a grant of 300 acres of land; £1 per acre being the minimum price of waste lands in the Colony. These grants should be chosen

in succession, that is to say, in the order the emigrants are landed in the Colony, and should be placed under the control of agents appointed by the Central Board of Pauper Emigration, in London.

As population increased, so would the value of these lands; and, at intervals, they could be disposed of in lots by public auction, in the Colony, at not less than the minimum price of Crown Waste Lands. The proceeds, transferred by the London Board to the credit of the particular Unions, would thus afford a fund for the further promotion of pauper emigration. Thus, by a fair outlay on the passage and outfit of pauper emigrants, a foundation might be laid for the ultimate and complete relief of Unions from the burden of their able-bodied poor. The expense would not, after the first few years, fall heavily upon them; for the sale of their acquired lands, by repaying the original outlay, would furnish funds for a permanent system.

The cost of maintenance of an able-bodied pauper in the workhouse of one of the English Unions is rather more than £9 per annum; thus, two years' cost would be amply sufficient to convey the pauper to the most distant of our colonial possessions in Australia, and also to provide him with a small outfit, say two pounds sterling worth of clothes. It may be said that, even in the agricultural Unions few able-bodied persons are compelled to enter the workhouse; but there are hundreds on hundreds of healthy strong females immured in them, who are much required in the colonies, more especially in our Australian possessions, and who would be certain of good wages and a prosperous settlement. Men also,

healthy and strong, are constantly in receipt, in the winter season, of out-door relief in the agricultural Unions; and even rating the aid thus afforded at only £4 sterling per annum, for out-door paupers, yet this annual expenditure for four years and a half, would be equal to sending those recipients of charity to a country where they would no longer continue to exist as paupers.

The management of the pauper and surplus population of Great Britain and Ireland is, at present, nothing else than a series of experiments; not a single year passes but some change or modification is made by Parliament in the poor-laws, and yet, in no one case has any attempt been made, on a large scale, to employ paupers in remunerative labour, or permanently to improve their condition. Every effort is on the spur of some present necessity, to support for the time being the pauperism of the nation; no great and enlarged scheme is brought forward to release the country from its annually increasing surplus population. The evil is progressing, marching on with rapid strides, whilst England possesses no statesman to stem the torrent and apply the necessary remedy, before the evil becomes of such magnitude as to overwhelm and bear down those existing barriers of society, which entrench the aristocracy of the land in the possession of such accumulated wealth as the world never before witnessed.

This nation possesses in every quarter of the globe, north, south, east, and west, land unlimited in extent, where the surplus and pauper population may be settled with incalculable advantage to themselves and their

native country. Millions are recklessly lavished on war or in temporary measures, and no ultimate benefit is the result; a national debt is heaped up, but how little has been applied to purposes which tend to create and enlarge the prosperity of the country; but if Great Britain were to expend ever so large a sum in emigration to her colonial possessions, would she not ultimately be amply repaid, by creating new customers for the produce of her manufactories and looms, and relieving herself from an incubus of poverty which entails such a heavy permanent tax upon her?

But if England require emigration to carry off her surplus population, what is the condition of Ireland, where the people chiefly exist by agricultural and pastoral pursuits; and how much more urgently do they call for relief in this shape?

According to a late Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, on Emigration from Ireland, it appears, that so excessive is the population in some districts, beyond the capability of the land to support them, that "In thirty-four unions, it appears, that on lands rated at a value of £1,744,391, there exists at present a population of 1,953,837. It is confidently stated by many witnesses, that in such cases, even if the receipt of all rents and rates were suspended, the produce of the land would be inadequate to support its inhabitants."

In what way then are these people to be relieved, except by emigration? The Committee remark on "The effects of an over-population in Ireland, in forcing an emigration of paupers seeking employment in England,

and willing to work for the lowest wages, thus reducing the remuneration of labour, and lowering the standard of comfort and of subsistence in this part of the United Kingdom, and the necessity of colonial emigration as a remedy for this evil."

The Committee, after referring to the effects and cost of emigration as carried out on the property of Lord Palmerston and other Irish Landlords, then proceed so distinctly to point out the advantages of promoting emigration, that the Author is induced to make some further quotations. In section the first of the Report in directing the attention of the House to the most prominent topics adverted to by witnesses, relating to Ireland, the Committee remark, in paragraph eight, on "The deep and pervading anxiety for emigration, as exhibited by the people themselves. This feeling which was proved to exist, though in a lesser degree, before the Poor Law Commission, and in the evidence taken before Lord Devon and his colleagues, is now described as being general, and as being founded on the sufferings produced by the loss of the potato crop."

Paragraph nine speaks of "The general success of the Irish emigrant in the colonies. This interesting fact has been proved, not only in relation to British North America, but to Australia. But the evidence which is most conclusive, is to be found in the large and increasing remittances, which have been made by previous settlers, to assist their families and friends in emigrating. The evidence of the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, shows the actual sums remitted through the banks of Belfast; and similar facts are stated by almost every witness connected with

Ireland, who has been examined." It is thus, as has been forcibly stated in evidence, that "Emigration begets emigration."

Another paragraph speaks of "The excess of charge incurred by providing for the poor in the workhouse or on public works, as compared with the expense of emigration."

Paragraph eleven, compares "The effect produced on the industry and wealth of Great Britain, as exemplified in the amount of British manufactured produce, consumed by an Irish peasant settled in Australia or British North America; or by the same peasant left to struggle with poverty in Ireland."

Paragraph twelve speaks of "The expediency of permitting tenants for life, and persons under legal disabilities, to raise loans and to charge the inheritance for the purposes of emigration. This suggestion, which was first made by the late Mr. Baron Forster, has been urged on the attention of the Committee by several witnesses."

The two following paragraphs refer to :—

"13. The expediency of amending the Poor Law, so far as relates to emigration, by granting the same facilities for raising money on the security of Irish rates as is permitted by law in England."

"14. The lessened risk that is now stated to exist of a recurrence of the evil of over-population, if its pressure were once removed, from the growing and extended conviction in the minds of all, that the minute subdivision and parcelling out of land is injurious alike to the proprietor and the farmer; from the cessation of long leases granted to middlemen, by whom this system was mainly

promoted; from the greater facility with which a mischief is averted, than corrected when it has once arisen; but more especially, from the example of the less rapid increase of population in Leinster, as compared with the population of the more unimproved districts, by which fact it is demonstrated that increased comfort in the people cannot fail to generate habits of prudence and forethought, and an indisposition to sink in the social scale by making imprudent marriages."

Many and evident as are the advantages of emigration to Ireland, as evidenced in this Report, the effects on the colonies would be equally beneficial. As this section of the Lords' Committee Report is of no great length, it may be best to give it in full. It refers to the Colonies.

"1. The capacity which exists in certain colonies to absorb European labour, with advantage to their most essential interests.

"2. The extent to which this supply may be safely carried, and the limits within, according to our views of a just policy it ought to be confined.

"3. The effect of an increased supply of emigrant labour on the productiveness and value of colonial land, and on the funds to be realized by land sales.

"4. The effect which colonization may be expected to produce on the investment of British capital within the colony, to which such colonization is applied, it being stated that such investments are now discouraged, in consequence of the extravagant price of labour, which diminishes the amount of profits.

"5. The effect of a large supply of free European

labour on the value of colonial produce in cases, where, as in New South Wales, it is stated that it has become necessary to slaughter and boil down sheep into tallow for the want of shepherds and other labourers required for pastoral pursuits, thus diminishing the wealth of the colony, and the raw material necessary for British manufactures.

"6. The effect that may be anticipated by the promotion or encouragement of works of undisputed usefulness; such as the railroads projected in British North America, surveys of which are now in progress, or have already been completed under the auspices of the Government.

"7. The effect of an augmented population in the British colonies, not only in increasing their wealth, their agricultural, mineral, and commercial resources, their power of consuming British manufactures, and paying for them in produce, of which the mother country may stand in need; but in adding to their strength and means of defence, and thus consolidating and securing the power of the empire.

"The Committee cannot close this Report without once more guarding themselves from the supposition that, by suggesting these subjects as deserving the most serious reflection, and the strictest examination, they are thereby prejudging the question, or expressing any conclusive opinion of their own. That opinion ought only to be formed, as the result of the examination and reflection which they have already recommended. They believe that there is much in the evidence before them which will serve to guide the House and the public towards the formation of an ultimate judgment, but the evidence is

still incomplete. The Committee are fully aware, that they have as yet examined into many points but superficially, and that some—as for example the state of the British Possessions in Southern Africa, and in the territory of Natal—have not yet been considered at all. Neither have they obtained adequate information respecting what they sincerely hope may hereafter be considered as the prospering settlement of New Zealand. The important discoveries of Sir Thomas Mitchell in Australia have also been but slightly noticed. But the evidence which they have taken, both as shewing the rapid development of the resources of British North America, and more especially as proving the unexampled progress of the newly-planted Australian provinces, is well calculated to warrant a hope, that the great principle of colonization, so often treated of as amongst those 'ancient, primitive, and heroical works,' for which modern times are unfitted, not only has been realized in some British Possessions, but has been exemplified on a greater scale and with more entire success there, and of late years, than has been manifested elsewhere in the past history of mankind. To transplant our domestic habits, our commercial enterprise, our laws, our institutions, our language, our literature, and our sense of religious obligation, to the more distant regions of the globe, is an enterprise worthy of the character of a great maritime nation. It is not only in its progress, the pursuit and the attainment of glory, but in its success, is the performance of a high duty, and the accomplishment of a noble destiny; and if it can also be made subservient to the relief of pressing distress at home;—if the labour, which is in excess in certain parts of

the country, can be rendered the source of an extending and durable prosperity in the colonies; such a combination of advantages cannot fail the more to recommend this great question of colonization to the earliest attention of the Legislature."

Like one hundred other reports of Committees, that of the Lords on Irish Colonization and Emigration is likely merely to produce a few monster blue-books, whose ponderous folios contain the important evidence obtained, but which lies hidden amongst a mass of other matter, through which the public have neither time nor inclination to wade. In recommending the question of emigration to the Legislature, the Committee enunciate many great truths as regards colonization; but apparently dubious as to the light in which these will be viewed, they throw a shade of uncertainty over matters, and end by suggesting no mode or system for carrying out what they acknowledge will tend to the interests of Great Britain and Ireland. Heroical and great as they appear to consider the colonization schemes of the ancients, they scarcely give due credit to the energy and enterprise of those children of Great Britain, who founded and populated those American States, now united in the mighty empire of the Union. Look through the pages of history, and where is there such an example of energy, enterprise, and successful colonization to be found?

Individual exertion has done and is doing much to promote the settlement and improvement of the Colonies, but the State in its collective capacity should come forward, and under a well-regulated system carry out

emigration, as the means of relieving herself of her surplus population.

In addition to emigration through the Poor Law Unions, as already suggested, and the promotion of private emigration by the encouragement of capitalists to invest their money in colonial lands, an annual grant from Parliament might be made, of such an amount as to keep the colonies always well supplied with labour, taking care never to exceed the probable legitimate demand.

There is, in many of the colonies, an annually increasing call for labour, more especially in our Australian possessions. Such is the increase of flocks and herds in New South Wales alone, that there would be annually absorbed every successive year, for pastoral pursuits in that region, not less than 8,000 persons. In Australia Felix, at least 4,000 would find profitable occupation, if annually added to the population, and for South Australia another addition of 4,000 might be made. Thus, these three colonies would, every successive year, absorb 16,000 labourers, if properly dispersed amongst them, and not all huddled into the chief town of the colony, which may be many hundred miles from the spot where their services would be most in request.

Each year increases the capacity of these colonies for employing labour; and if the private emigration of large capitalists and men of middling means were extensively promoted, this capacity might be increased almost *ad infinitum*.

The Cape of Good Hope, or Southern Africa, presents in her eastern provinces, districts of great extent and

much fertility, whither emigration might be directed with incalculable advantage. The capacity of the Cape Colony for absorbing *European labour*, is not now considerable; perhaps three thousand annually are as many as would meet employment at remunerative wages, owing to the large number of Hottentot and Caffre servants, and the considerable importations of captured slaves, who are landed here by Government, and assigned out under an apprentice system for a certain number of years.

Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and our other North American possessions, already obtain privately, fully as large a supply of *mere labour* as they can annually absorb; but if the emigrants to these countries were aided in acquiring small farms from twenty to one hundred acres in extent, the number that might be introduced, without creating distress or too great competition in the labour market, would only be limited by the capital necessary for their settlement.

Many of the Irish landlords who during the years 1846 and 1847, largely promoted at their own expense emigration amongst their tenantry, have boasted and taken credit to themselves in both Houses of Parliament for their generosity. Could the waters of the Atlantic yield up their dead, and the registers of Gros Island and the fever sheds at Montreal be produced, what a fearful and appalling tale would be unfolded, and with what a different eye the public would regard these landlords, who sent forth hundreds on hundreds, thousands on thousands, of ignorant deluded creatures, to die of want and pesti-

lence in crowded ships, without medical aid, or to become inmates of the fever sheds at Quebec, Montreal, or the other ports. Induced to leave their homes, such as they were, and to abandon that land on which their birth gave them a claim for subsistence, these unfortunate wretches, if they succeeded in escaping from fever, were cast penniless, helpless paupers on the shores of Canada, exposed without adequate clothing or support to the inclemency of a six months' winter. And this is called emigration and colonization, by these heartless landowners and their agents, who care little for the result, so that they get rid of a burthen, and remove the suffering creatures where their plaints can be no longer heard by them. If ever inquiry was called for, it is demanded into the manner in which the Irish landlords lately sent their tenantry across the Atlantic; why medical advice and superintendence were not engaged for the voyage, and why no provision was made for their employment and settlement on the American shores.

The people of Canada and New Brunswick, exclaim against the Irish landlords for pouring their thousands of diseased and helpless tenantry upon them, few if any of whom are enabled by their bodily strength to work for their living, and consequently are cast an incubus on the resources of these colonies and on public charity. No doubt the Canadian Legislature would soon adopt steps to mitigate, if not suppress such an evil; but the climate, the severe winter, soon removes the accumulated thousands of asthmatic, old, sickly, and debilitated wretches; leaving few behind but those possessed of a sound constitution. Thus do the Irish landlords escape

that exposure of their heartlessness which they so well deserve.

But here the Author must pause, and state that all Irish landowners who have promoted emigration are not to be condemned; some three or four have endeavoured to secure the comfort, during the passage, of their tenantry, and their employment and support in Canada; but these are the exceptions and not the rule.

In New Brunswick and in Upper Canada, the Crown possesses countless acres that might be made available for the settlement of emigrants, at a small expense, under a system of emigration promoted by Government, and carried out under their auspices.

Emigrants intended to be located should be sent out early in the Spring, so that under the direction of superintendents accustomed to the country, they may be enabled to construct good log-houses before the end of Autumn, and get themselves comfortably settled in them. In the neighbourhood of Lakes Huron and Superior, millions of acres of suitable Crown Waste Lands are to be found, affording sites from whence every kind of produce could be conveyed to good markets by water-carriage.

The location of emigrants should always be promoted in families, and when a suitable and healthy spot for the settlement of a number had been selected by the Government officials, it ought to be divided into lots, varying from twenty acres upwards, according to the number of the family and their means of cultivation. Suppose a family to be domiciled in their log-hut by the month of October;—all they would require from that

moment would be tools for felling, splitting, &c., and provisions to last them until they could gather a crop of their own, which with industry they could do in less than twelve months. Flannel and coarse woollen clothes, both males and females should have, but these might be obtained in England for them, at an average of thirty-five shillings or two pounds per head.

The twelve months' supply of provisions necessary, could be obtained in Upper Canada very cheap, and might consist of flour and pork. Up to the period of the actual settlement of the emigrants in their log-houses, they should be under the charge of the Government officials, and their support be provided by the Executive. A degree of superintendence might be continued throughout the first year, in order to instruct the people in the best mode of clearing the land, fencing it, and putting in their crops. After one year no family need be dependent on the Government; they may by that time raise sufficient produce for their own consumption, and even to spare; each year they would progress in comfort and substance, and within seven they should be bound to repay the sum expended in settling them, together with a moderate price—say one dollar and a half per acre—for the land; then, and not till then, ought their title-deeds be given up to them. This necessary retention of the legal title to the soil, would act as a spur to the settler to clear off the claim upon him as soon as possible.

The original outlay in locating a body of settlers is not so considerable as may be imagined. The sum stated in another place (£18) as necessary to fit out

and defray the passage of an adult to the Australian colonies, would be amply sufficient to convey the emigrant across the Atlantic, and settle him permanently on the fertile lands in the neighbourhood of Lake Huron, so as to enable him ultimately to become a happy and prosperous settler. It has been proposed to form villages and erect blockhouses, in readiness for an emigrant population in Canada. This would be an absurd promotion of centralization, and lead to idleness amongst the new-comers. The emigrants should be scattered over the country, each family with a good plot of ground around him; and when the wants of the population required villages, with a little encouragement they would arise of themselves; for, in Canada, where produce is to be sold and goods are required to be bought, there are never wanting traders of small capital, to fill up the vacancy between producer and consumer, and to effect an interchange of commodities.

It may be considered that this distribution would lead to demoralization and neglect of education, but moderate encouragement from the legislature of Canada, would promote both the foundation of places of worship in central situations, and the establishment of local schools: the spirit of progress and improvement is abroad in our North American possessions, and would aid the good work.

A long period since—some twenty-four years ago—the settlement of a large number of Irish paupers was promoted and carried out by Sir Wilmot Horton, then Secretary for the Colonies. The spot pitched upon for their location was in the Newcastle district of Canada,

then a wild, uncultivated, unoccupied waste. That very district is now one of the most prosperous in Canada, and contains several large villages: the value of the land in the neighbourhood is increased fifty fold, and all through the energy, perseverance, and industry of those Irish paupers. This instance of successful settlement, promoted by the Government, at a period when provisions and all other necessaries were dearer, and the means of transport infinitely less and more expensive than at present, when steam is at work upon the lakes, should act as an encouragement, as an incentive to our rulers, to follow the example set them by Sir Wilmot Horton. Within seven years after their location, the Newcastle settlers were in a position to have repaid the amount expended on their settlement; and why should not people so assisted in the present day, be able to do the same, when free trade opens the ports of Great Britain, and offers the largest market in the world for the disposal of the grain and other produce to be raised by the pauper settlers on the Western Lakes?

The Author might here exhibit the absolute necessity that exists of settling the Western regions of Canada, if they are to be preserved to Great Britain; but as these pages have already extended to their allotted number, he will content himself by remarking on the rapid progress of the Americans in that quarter, and their desire to possess the rich and fertile country that intervenes between Michigan and their possessions in the Oregon, and on the shores of the Columbia River, beyond the Rocky Mountains of the far West.

Desirous, nay sincerely anxious, to aid by any possible

means, the alleviation of the distress so general among the lower classes of society, and to promote the interests of our vast colonial possessions, by transplanting thither the surplus labour of Great Britain and Ireland, the author has presumed to lay before his readers the suggestions given in this chapter. But his hopes are slight that they will have the desired effect. Schemes for advancing general and national state emigration are too general; they hold forth no exclusive benefit to any class, while they are great and comprehensive for the benefit of the distressed and unfortunate poor; but these are unaided, unassisted, unrepresented amongst those whose advocacy would force the subject on the legislature of the country, and lead to what might exhibit state colonization on a scale worthy of the age and the period of civilization in which we live. Recur to the pages of history; scan the broad volume of the past;—and it will be found that combination and agitation have alone produced all the great measures there recorded. When an Emigration League shall arise, with a second Cobden at its head, then, and not till then, will there exist a hope of national emigration on a large scale.

APPENDIX.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following are the Estimates of the probable Expenditure and Receipts for the Colony of New South Wales for the Year 1848, as presented by the Governor to the Legislative Assembly; accompanied with his Minutes and Explanations.

Governor's Message.

In submitting, for the consideration of the Council, the estimates for 1848, and a supplementary estimate for the present year, the Governor regrets to have to state that it has been found necessary to omit appropriations for several works and objects of obvious public utility and benefit, both in the middle and southern districts, for which, under different circumstances, he would gladly have made provision.

The reductions which he has thus been constrained to make amount to upwards of £30,000. He has, however, the less reluctantly acquiesced in them, feeling that it would not be politic to increase the high rates of wages now prevailing, by undertaking at the present time any additional public works, except such as are of pressing emergency.

The necessity for these omissions has originated chiefly from the reductions in the revenue which have taken place within the last four years. The principal of these are as follow, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1843. The reduction of the tonnage duties to one-half, and the exemption of whaling ships from all harbour dues, estimated to amount annually to - - - -	1,165	0	0
In 1845. The reduction of the duties on spirits from 12s. and 9s. to 6s. and 3s. 6d. per gallon, estimated to amount annually to - -	21,271	0	0
In 1846. The discontinuance of the assessment on stock, estimated to amount annually to	31,000	0	0
And the reduction of wharfage duties, estimated to amount annually to - -	3,824	0	0
Total estimated amount of reduction -	£57,260	0	0

Making in all a diminution in the revenue little short of £60,000 per annum.

In consequence of these very extensive reductions, it has been found impossible, notwithstanding that the estimates have been prepared with every regard to economy, and the omission from them of the large sums for public works and buildings, to which the Governor has already adverted, to keep the proposed expenditure within the estimated amount of revenue, unless some portion of that which has been reduced shall be again restored. It will be in the recollection of the Council that, in the financial minute which accompanied the estimates laid before the House during its last session, the Governor expressed a doubt whether it would be possible to charge permanently the expenses of police beyond the boundaries, upon the general revenue; but as there was then a considerable balance unexpended of the amount received from the assessment on stock, under the provisions of the Act 2nd Victoria, No. 27, it was considered proper to make provision from that source for this object. As this balance will, however, by the close of the present year, be nearly, if not wholly absorbed, the Governor proposes to lay before the Council a Bill to re-impose the assessment on stock beyond the boundaries, to the extent, however, of only one-half the former rates. The estimated amount which will probably be received from this source is £16,000, a sum which probably not much exceeds that which will be required for this purpose. It has not, however, been usual, nor is it possible, that every tax should be precisely adjusted so as to yield the exact amount necessary for the particular object for which it is imposed. On the contrary, the proceeds must be considered as forming part of the general revenue; and if on the one hand they should be found to fall short of the sum required, the deficiency must be made up from the revenue from other sources; while on the other, if they should exceed the amount required, the surplus would be carried to the credit of the revenue for general purposes.

Even with this addition to the revenue, the estimated balance unexpended at the end of 1848 will amount only to about £10,300, a sum certainly not more than necessary to provide for any failure of the revenue, and unforeseen expenses which may arise in the course of the year. It is confidently anticipated, therefore, that the restoration of this tax will be readily voted by the Council, and cheerfully acquiesced in by the parties by whom it will have to be paid, and for whose benefit the produce of it will be expended.

If, however, contrary to expectation, the Council should see fit to decline entertaining this proposal, it will be necessary, of course, for the Governor to revise the estimates, in order that a reduction may be made upon them to the extent at least of the estimated produce of the assessment contemplated.

In the present state of the question relating to District Councils, and pending the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject, the Governor does not propose to make any change in the system, which has been acted on during the last few years, of placing the whole of the charges for police and schools upon the general revenue, without calling upon the municipal bodies to make any contribution towards the same.

Reverting to the estimates now submitted, it may be remarked that there are several minor additions and alterations proposed to those of last year, which will be explained by the proper officer when brought under consideration. It will therefore be only necessary here to advert to the more considerable. It will be seen that the Governor has proposed for the ensuing, as for the last year, a Supplement to Schedule A, for the administration of justice, which is absolutely required to meet the necessary expenses of this important branch of the public service. It is not, however, his intention to avail himself of this appropriation if voted, unless the saving on Schedule B should, contrary to expectation, be found insufficient to cover the amount.

His Excellency has excluded from the estimates the expenses of the department of distilleries. This being one of revenue, he considers the principle laid down in the Right Honourable the Secretary of State's despatch, No. 49, dated 24th October, 1846, which has been laid before the Council, as applicable to this department. He has included the following sums to meet the expenses of the undermentioned new appointments and services, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Appointment of a harbour-master at Moreton Bay -	150	0	0
Establishments for the lighthouse at Gabo Island -	800	0	0
At Cape Otway - - - - - - - -	356	15	0
Survey of the Yarra Yarra River and Corio Bay -	500	0	0
Appointment of twenty-six additional coroners for police districts - - - - - - - -	520	0	0
Establishment for the new gaol at Goulburn - -	878	11	6
Carried forward - -	£3,205	6	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward - -	3,205	6	6
Appointment of six additional chaplains for the gaols in country districts - - - - -	150	0	0
Board of Inspection at the Lunatic Asylum, Tarban Creek - - - - - - - - - -	500	0	0
And for the construction of sewers - - - -	1,000	0	0
Establishment for the Lunatic Asylum at Melbourne	1,215	13	0
Establishment of schools on Lord Stanley's system -	2,000	0	0
	£8,070	19	6

For some of these new establishments, provision has also been made on the supplementary estimate, amounting to £802 4*s.* 4*d.*

The recent melancholy shipwreck at Moreton Bay has shown the necessity for more efficient establishment for the safety of ships and vessels frequenting that port. A survey of the bay has recently been made under the able direction of Captain Wickham, R.N., and it is intended to be immediately published. Captain Wickham has suggested the necessity for the appointment of a harbour-master, in addition to the pilot already appointed there, and that the establishment should be removed to the north end of Moreton Island, in order that the northern channel should be used so soon as it shall have been marked out by buoys. Provision for these purposes has accordingly been made on the estimates now submitted.

It is hoped that, early in the ensuing year, the light-houses at Gabo Island and Cape Otway will be completed, and it is necessary, therefore, to make provision for the establishments required for bringing them, without delay, into operation. It is proposed that a portion at least of the expense necessary for this purpose shall be made good by dues to be paid by ships and vessels, which will benefit by the establishment of these lights; and a Bill will, on an early day, be laid before the Council for this purpose.

The sum of £500 is proposed for the survey of Corio Bay and the Yarra Yarra River, with a view to ascertain the practicability of improving their navigation, and thus facilitating the means of access by water with the important towns of Melbourne and Geelong.

In conformity with an opinion on the subject, which has been frequently expressed by the Attorney-General, provision is proposed to be made for the appointment of coroners in all the districts

within the boundaries of location. This will involve an additional expenditure of about £520, being at the rate of £20 a-year for each coroner. The fees and travelling expenses which are now payable to magistrates for inquiries into the causes of sudden death, will be available for the remuneration of the coroners, without, of course, entailing additional expense on the public, beyond that already stated. It is hoped that this arrangement, by bringing into operation the intervention of a jury, and the laws relating to inquests, will be an improvement in the administration of this important branch of public justice.

The new gaol at Goulburn being now nearly complete, and ready for the reception of prisoners, it is necessary to provide an establishment for it, which has accordingly been framed on the usual scale. Some additional expenses will be necessary for extending the circuit courts to this important district, and sums have been placed on the estimates to cover the amount.

Some additional chaplains for gaols in the country districts have been estimated for, in order to place the whole of the gaols of the colony upon an equal footing in this respect. The importance of religious instruction to persons confined in gaols will, it is believed, fully justify this expense.

For the lunatic asylum at Tarban Creek an additional provision is proposed to be made for a paid Board of Inspection. A sum of £1,000 has also been placed on the estimates for the construction of sewers to the buildings; but it has not been possible to entertain at present the very large expenditure in the construction of additions to the building which were proposed by the Committee of last session, and recommended to the Governor by the address from the Council of the 11th ultimo. The increasing demands upon the Government for the admission of pauper lunatics into this institution are, however, such as will require the early attention of the Government, and endeavours will accordingly be made to ascertain whether some less expensive plan may not be adopted, for affording the additional accommodation required, in order that, as soon as the state of the finances of the colony will admit, this important object may be carried out.

For the new lunatic asylum at Melbourne, it has been found necessary to provide an establishment, and £1,215 13*s.* has accordingly been placed on the estimates for this purpose.

In compliance with the address of the Council of the 9th October, 1846, the Governor has proposed a sum of £2,000, to be applied to

meet the expenses of schools on the principle of Lord Stanley's national system of education.

For the denominational schools, established under and prior to the regulations of 1841, an additional provision has been found necessary, at the rate of £1,780 per annum. Finding that the expenses of schools of this description were rapidly increasing, the Governor has deemed it necessary to publish a notice intimating that no sum in addition to the proportionate expenditure for the first quarter of the present year would be placed on the estimates.

An addition has been made to the usual annual amount for the repairs of roads and bridges both in the Sydney and Port Phillip districts. The total amount for this purpose has been estimated at £11,000 for the year 1848.

For several specific public works and buildings now in progress no additional sums have been proposed, with the exception of £2,000 for the bridge on the Yarra Yarra, as it is assumed that the amount of sums voted in former years, and unexpended on the 31st December, 1846, added to those voted for the same services for the year 1847, will be as much as could be advantageously expended on the same up to the close of 1848. The enumeration of these works and buildings, and the sums already available to meet the expense, are as follows, viz. :—

Work or Building.	Unexpended on the 31st December, 1846.			Voted for 1847.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Circular Quay, Sydney Cove, of the amount unexpended £4974 9s. 5½d., there may probably be required, only..	2,000	0	0	2,000	0	0	4,000	0	0
Breakwater, Newcastle	312	3	4	1,000	0	0	1,312	3	4
Blue Mountain Road	888	3	7	1,000	0	0	1,888	3	7
New Gaol, Maitland	4,319	3	8	2,500	0	0	6,819	3	8
Treasury and Audit Office, not yet commenced	2,000	0	0	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
Bridge on the Yarra Yarra....	3,619	19	5	3,000	0	0	6,619	19	5
Total.....	13,139	10	0	9,500	0	0	22,639	10	0

It may be proper to remark, that the above is exclusive of the sums voted for other public buildings and works for the year 1847, and specified in the foregoing table.

The whole of the charges for the year 1848, may be taken at £296,226 4*s.* 3*d.*, being as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil and legislative establishments	34,496	12	9
Coroners	2,604	1	0
Police	70,404	8	10
Gaols	11,331	15	0
Medical	7,224	0	0
Schools	16,558	1	8
Public works and buildings	29,673	5	0
Miscellaneous	7,704	15	6
	£179,996	19	9
Schedules A and B, of 5 and 6 Victoria, caput 76 — 51,600 0 0			
Schedule C, of said Act — 30,000 0 0			
	81,600	0	0
Supplement to Schedule A, for the administration of justice	4,989	14	6
Department of customs — 14,500 0 0			
Department of colonial distilleries 2,000 0 0			
	16,500	0	0
Reserved balances for public works	13,139	11	0
Total	£296,226	4	3

The ways and means to meet this charge are as follow:—

Head of Revenue.	Sydney.	Pt. Phillip	Total.
	£	£	£
Customs — Duties on spirits imported	56,000	22,000	78,000
Customs — Duties on tobacco imported	42,000	15,000	57,000
Customs — *Ad valorem* duty on foreign goods imported	28,000	6,500	34,500
Customs — Miscellaneous	2,500	500	3,000
	128,500	44,000	172,500
Duties on spirits distilled in the colony	15,500	.....	15,500
Post Office collections	14,000	5,200	19,200
Auction duties and licenses to auctioneers	4,600	2,200	6,800
Licenses to distil and retail spirits	22,000	6,000	28,000
Rents of tolls and ferries	6,000	.....	6,000
Fees and fines of public offices	13,000	3,500	16,500
Tonnage duty on shipping	600	200	800
Assessment on stock by Commissioners of Crown Lands	9,000	7,000	16,000
Miscellaneous receipts	5,000	250	5,250
	218,200	68,350	286,550
Estimated balance on 31st December, 1847	.....	.....	20,000
Total	.....	.....	306,550

The ways and means for the year 1848, being thus estimated at - - - - - -	£306,550	0	0
And the charges thereon at - - - - -	296,226	4	3
It is estimated that there will remain a surplus of Revenue over Expenditure, of - - -	£10,323	15	9

Which, it is expected, will be sufficient to cover any failure of revenue, or unlooked-for expenses during the year.

Government House,
23rd June, 1847.

VINEYARDS.—Return of the number of acres of Land planted with the Grape Vine, in the year 1847:—

Sydney District.—Argyle, 36; Bligh, 4; Brisbane, 59; Camden, 62; Cook, 27; Cumberland, 216; Durham, 107; Gloucester, 58; Hunter, 19; King, 8; Macquarie, 15; Northumberland, 92; Roxburgh, 33; Stanley, 3; Westmoreland, 2; beyond the boundaries of location, 5.

Port Philip District.—Bourke, 52; Grant, 24; Normanby, 2.

LIVE STOCK.—Return of Live Stock in the colony of New South Wales, on the 1st of January, 1847:—

	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
Sydney District, within the boundaries of location - - -	56,361	395,589	34,918	2,036,678
Commissioners' Districts, beyond the boundaries of location - - -	20,365	744,708	4,815	2,873,141

COIN.—Return of Coin in the Colonial Treasury, the Military Chest, and the several Banks, on the 31st December, in each year, from 1837 to 1846, inclusive:—

Year.	Total. £.	s.	d.
1837 - - - - -	427,432	11	6
1838 - - - - -	520,127	11	5
1839 - - - - -	516,069	16	7
1840 - - - -	397,581	13	9
1841 - - - - -	462,624	17	9

Year	Total. £.	s.	d.
1842 - - - - -	475,389	18	8
1843 - - - - -	423,972	0	5
1844 - - - - -	559,923	0	1
1845 - - - - -	855,166	3	2
1846 - - - - -	827,306	19	4

SYDNEY MARKETS.—SEPT. 1847.

Wheat.—This article is decidedly on the advance. The supply is now almost entirely confined to importations from the southern settlements, and the continued dry weather has so parched up our agricultural districts that great fears are entertained of the approaching harvest falling short of an average crop. The cargo of the Munford, from Launceston, has, we understand, been sold at 5*s.* 6*d.* per bushel.

Flour.—The high price of wheat, and the prospects generally throughout the country, are evident symptoms of an immediate advance in the price of this article. The millers still quote £13 per ton cash, as the price of the best quality.

Bread.—The two-pound loaf still sells for 3½*d.* by all respectable bakers.

Bran.—This article is in demand at 10*d.* per bushel.

Biscuit.—No. 1, cabin, 19*s.* per cwt.; No. 2, ship, 15*s.* per cwt.

Maize remains unaltered—1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per bushel.

Fodder.—The supply of hay during the week amounted to 100 loads; no alteration has taken place in the price, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. by the load. Straw and green bedding remain as last quoted. A rise of 2*d.* per dozen has taken place in the article of grass, owing to the continuance of the dry weather.

Vegetables are becoming scarce, and a progressive rise taking place in the prices. Potatoes maintain their former price, £6 to £9 per ton for Van Dieman's Land, and £3 10*s.* to £4 for home grown.

Fruit.—Oranges and lemons are the only articles worth naming under this head. The supply consisted of thirty-three loads, which realized, according to quality, 2*d.* to 6*d.* per dozen. A few apples from Van Dieman's Land were in the market, and fetched £1 per bushel.

Dairy Produce.—Thirty-five cwt. of butter was brought to the market, where the settler realized 8*d.* to 9½*d.*; of cheese about a

ton and a half, averaging 4*d.*; and of bacon and hams three quarters of a ton, realized 4½*d.* per lb. Eggs fetched from 6*d.* to 7*d.* per dozen.

Poultry.—Nine loads have paid dues at the market. Geese realize 6*s.*, ducks 4*s.*, and fowls 2*s.* to 3*s.* per couple; eggs may be quoted at 6*d.* per dozen.

Act for regulating the Sale of Waste Land belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies. [22nd June, 1842.]

WHEREAS it is expedient that an uniform system of disposing of the waste lands of the Crown in the Australian colonies should be established: be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that within the Australian colonies the waste lands of the Crown shall be disposed of in the manner and according to the regulations hereinafter prescribed, and not otherwise.

II. And be it enacted, that the waste lands of the Crown in the Australian colonies shall not, save as hereinafter excepted, be conveyed or alienated by Her Majesty, or by any person or persons acting on the behalf or under the authority of Her Majesty, either in fee simple or for any less estate or interest, unless such conveyance or alienation be made by way of sale, nor unless such sales be conducted in the manner and according to the regulations hereinafter prescribed.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent Her Majesty, or any person or persons acting on the behalf or under the authority of Her Majesty, from excepting from sale, and either reserving to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, or disposing of in such other manner as for the public interest may seem best, such lands as may be required for public roads or other internal communications, whether by land or water, or for the use or benefit of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, or for purposes of military defence, or as the sites of places of public worship, schools, or other public buildings, or as places for the interment of the dead, or places for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of any town or village, or as the sites of public quays or landing places on the sea-coast or shores of navigable streams, or for any other purpose of public safety, convenience, health, or

enjoyment; and provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent Her Majesty, or any person or persons acting on her behalf or under the authority of Her Majesty, from fulfilling any promise or engagement made or hereafter to be made by or on the behalf of Her Majesty in favour of any military or naval settlers in the said colonies respectively, in pursuance of any regulations made by Her Majesty's authority in favour or for the benefit of any such settlers.

IV. And be it enacted, that, save as hereinafter is excepted in reference to blocks of twenty thousand acres of land or upwards, no waste lands of the Crown in any of the said colonies shall be so conveyed or alienated as aforesaid until the same shall have been surveyed, and shall have been delineated in the public charts of such colony, in such lots as shall be subsequently offered and put up for sale, which lots shall in no case, save as aforesaid, contain an area exceeding one superficial square mile.

V. And be it enacted, that, under and subject to the various provisions and regulations hereinafter contained, the Governor for the time being of each of the said colonies is hereby authorized and required, in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, to convey and alienate in fee simple or for any less estate or interest, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, any waste lands of the Crown in any such colony, which conveyances or alienations shall be made in such forms and with such solemnities as shall from time to time be prescribed by Her Majesty, and being so made shall be valid and effectual in the law to transfer to and to vest in possession in any such purchaser or purchasers any such lands as aforesaid, for any such estate or interest as by any such conveyance as aforesaid shall be granted to him, her, or them.

VI. And be it enacted, that once at the least in each of the four usual quarters of the year, and on as many other occasions as to the Governor for the time being of any such colony shall seem meet, there shall be holden one or more public sales by auction of the waste lands of the Crown within such colony; and that every such Governor shall, by proclamation or proclamations, to be from time to time by him for that purpose made in manner hereinafter mentioned, declare with all practicable precision the times and the places at which such auctions will be holden, and what are the lands to be offered for sale at each of such auctions, and what are the upset prices at which they will be offered for sale; and it shall not be lawful for any such Governor to sell or cause to be sold any

such lands, unless they shall have been specified as about to be offered for sale by such proclamation as aforesaid, issued at some time within three calendar months next preceding the actual sale thereof.

VII. And be it enacted, that in every such proclamation as aforesaid the lands specified therein as about to be offered for sale shall be distinguished into three separate classes, the first of which shall be described as town lots, the second of which shall be described as suburban lots, and the third of which shall be described as country lots; and within the first of the said classes shall be comprised all lands situate within the limits of any existing town to be in that behalf especially named and described by the Governor, or within any locality to be designated by the Governor as the site of any town to be thereon erected; and within the second of the said classes shall be comprised all lands situate within the distance of five miles from the nearest point of any existing or contemplated town, unless in any case the Governor for the time being of any such colony shall see fit to exclude any such last-mentioned lands from the said class of suburban lots, on the ground that they will not in his judgment derive any increased value from their vicinity to any such town; and within the third of the said classes shall be comprised all lands not comprised within the said first and second classes: provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent the putting up for sale of lands of any one or more of the said classes apart from lands of both or either of the other classes.

VIII. And be it enacted, that none of the waste lands of the Crown shall be sold at any such auction in any of the said colonies unless the sum of one pound at the least for each acre of such land be then and there offered for the same, which sum of one pound per acre shall be the lowest upset price of any of the waste lands of the Crown in any of the said colonies, but which lowest upset price shall be liable to be from time to time raised in any such colony in manner hereinafter mentioned.

IX. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor of any such colony, at his discretion, by any such proclamation or proclamations as aforesaid, to raise the lowest upset price of the waste lands of the Crown in any such colony; and it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any instructions addressed to any such Governor under Her Majesty's signet and sign manual, with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, either to raise the lowest

upset price of the waste lands of the Crown in any such colony, or to disallow and reduce back, either wholly or in part, any increase of the said upset price which, in exercise of the authority hereby vested in him, any such Governor may, in manner aforesaid, have made of the said upset price, by any such proclamation or proclamations as aforesaid: provided always, that no such instructions reducing the lowest upset price of land as raised by any such proclamation or proclamations shall be so issued as aforesaid by Her Majesty after the lapse of six months from the receipt by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State from such Governor of a transcript of any such proclamation: provided also, that if such upset price be so reduced by Her Majesty as aforesaid, and if any person shall in the meanwhile have purchased of the Crown any lands not being town or suburban lots or special lots, it shall be lawful for the Governor either to return to such person the difference between the lowest upset price named by the Governor and the amount to which such lowest upset price shall have been reduced by Her Majesty, or to grant to such person or persons lands equal in value to the said difference.

X. And be it enacted, that it shall not be competent to the Governor of any such colony, nor, save as aforesaid, to Her Majesty, to reduce the amount to which, in manner aforesaid, the lowest upset price of lands within such colony may at any time have been so increased by such Governor or by Her Majesty.

XI. And be it enacted, that in respect of any part not exceeding one-tenth of the whole of the lands of the third class for the first time offered for sale at any such auctions as aforesaid it shall be lawful for any such Governor, by any such proclamation or proclamations as aforesaid, to name an upset price higher than the lowest upset price of waste lands in the colony, and such excepted lands of the third class shall be designated as "special country lots;" and that in respect of any lot or lots consisting of lands either of the first or of the second classes, to be comprised in any such sales, it shall be lawful for the Governor for the time being to fix the upset price of any such lot or lots at any sum exceeding the lowest upset price of waste lands within the colony in which the same may be situated, and from to time to raise or lower, as to him may seem requisite for the public interests, the price of such lots consisting of lands of the first or the second class, so always that such upset price shall never be less than the lowest upset price of waste lands within the said colony.

XII. And be it enacted, that no land comprised in the said first or second classes shall be sold in any of the said colonies otherwise than by public auction; but that any lands comprised in the third of the said classes shall and may be sold by the Governor for the time being of the colony within which the same are situate by private contract, if the same shall first have been put up to public auction in manner aforesaid, and shall not have been sold at such auction; provided that no such land shall be sold by any such private contract for less than the upset price at which the same was last put up for sale by auction, or if any bidding above that price was made for the same at such last preceding auction, then at less than the amount of such bidding, after deducting the amount of any deposit that may have been paid thereon: provided also, that if between any two successive sales by auction an increase shall in manner aforesaid have been made of the upset price of lands, no land affected by such increase shall subsequently be sold by private contract until after the same shall again have been put up to sale by auction at such increased upset price.

XIII. And be it enacted, that no waste lands of the Crown shall be sold in any such colony by any such private contract as aforesaid, except for ready money, to be paid at the signing of such contract; and that no waste lands of the Crown shall be sold at any such public auction as aforesaid unless on condition of paying at the time of the sale, in ready money, a deposit, the amount of which shall be fixed by any such proclamation or proclamations as aforesaid, at not less than one-tenth of the whole price, nor unless the purchaser or purchasers shall contract to pay the residue of such price within one calendar month next after the time of such sale by auction, and shall further contract, that on failure of such payment the deposits shall be forfeited, and that the contract shall be thenceforward null and void.

XIV. And be it enacted, that by any proclamation or proclamations to be from time to time for that purpose issued by the Governor of any such colony, in the manner hereinafter mentioned, it shall be lawful for him to divide such colony, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, into any number of territorial divisions not exceeding four; and for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Act, but for no other purpose, each of such territorial divisions shall be considered as a distinct and separate colony; saving only that as regards the appropriation hereinafter directed of a certain portion of the proceeds of sales of land to the intro-

duction of emigrants from the United Kingdom, it shall be sufficient that such emigrants be introduced into any part of the entire colony, without reference to the territorial division in which such proceeds of sales may have accrued; and provided always, that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any instructions to be issued by Her Majesty in manner before-mentioned, to disallow and annul any such proclamation or proclamations; provided that such instructions be issued within six calendar months next after the receipt by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from such Governor, of the transcript of such proclamation; provided also, that such instructions shall take effect within the said colony upon the receipt thereof by the said Governor, and not before.

XV. And be it enacted, that if any person or persons shall offer to purchase from the Governor of any such colony, by private contract, any block of unsurveyed land comprising twenty thousand acres or more, and forming, as nearly as the natural landmarks of the country will admit, a parallelogram, of which no one side shall be more than twice the length of any other side, it shall be lawful for the Governor, by any such private contract, to effect any such sale, on such terms and conditions as to him shall seem meet, provided that such lands be not sold for less than the lowest upset price of lands per acre in the colony in which the same may be situated, and provided that the purchaser or purchasers of any such lands shall not be entitled to any survey thereof, except so far as may be necessary to ascertain the external marks and bounds thereof.

XVI. And whereas it may be convenient that means should be provided for the payment within the United Kingdom of the purchase money of waste lands of the Crown within the said colonies; and whereas by a warrant under Her Majesty's sign manual, bearing date on the tenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty, Her Majesty was pleased to appoint certain persons therein named to be, during Her Majesty's pleasure, Commissioners, in the United Kingdom, for the sale of the waste lands of the Crown in Her Majesty's colonies, and for superintending the emigration of Her Majesty's subjects to such colonies; be it therefore enacted, that if any person or persons shall pay, for the purchase of waste lands of the Crown in any of Her Majesty's Australian colonies, any sum or sums of money to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's treasury of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or to any person or persons to be appointed by the said Commissioners

of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, to receive the same, the said Commissioners of colonial lands and emigration for the time being are hereby authorized and required, subject to such rules as shall be prescribed for their guidance in that respect by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to grant, under their hands and seal of office, certificates to any such purchaser or purchasers of the amount of any such payments, which certificates shall, on production thereof to the Governor for the time being of any such colony, be received by him as equivalent to the amount of money for which the same shall respectively be given, so far and only so far as the same may be tendered to such Governor in payment for the price of any waste lands of the Crown to be there purchased, either at public auction or by private contract, in the manner and subject to the regulations by this present Act prescribed in respect of such purchasers.

XVII. And be it enacted, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent the Governor of any of the said colonies from granting to any person or persons a licence for the occupation, for any time not exceeding twelve calendar months from the date thereof, of any waste lands of the Crown in any such colony, or a licence for felling, removing, and selling the timber growing on any such lands; and that no such lands shall be sold until after the expiration of the licence for the occupation of the same.

XVIII. And be it enacted, that all charges which shall be incurred in any of the Australian colonies for the expense of the survey and management of the waste lands of the Crown therein, or for effecting such sales by auction or by private contract, or otherwise in carrying into effect the provisions of this present Act within any such colony, shall in the first instance be chargeable upon and defrayed from the proceeds of sales of waste lands, unless provision shall otherwise be made for defraying such charges by any law or ordinance to be enacted by the local legislature of any colony.

XIX. And be it enacted, that, subject to the charge above mentioned, the gross proceeds of the sales of the waste lands of the Crown in each of the said colonies shall be appropriated and applied to the public service of the said colonies respectively, in such manner as Her Majesty, or the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, shall from time to time direct: Provided always, that one equal half part at least of such gross proceeds

shall be and the same is hereby appropriated towards defraying the expense of the removal from the United Kingdom to the colony wherein such revenue accrued of emigrants not possessing the means of defraying the expense of their own emigration thither, which money shall be expended by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or by such person or persons as shall be authorized by them to expend the same, but subject to such regulations regarding the selection of emigrants, the means to be provided for their conveyance, and their superintendence during the voyage to the colony to which they are destined, and for their reception and settlement in that colony, as shall from time to time be prescribed by Her Majesty in her Privy Council, or through one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to the Governor of such respective colonies, and to the Commissioners for the time being of colonial lands and emigration.

XX. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing herein contained shall affect or be construed to affect any contract, or to prevent the fulfilment of any promise or engagement, made by or on the behalf of Her Majesty with respect to any lands situate in any of the said colonies in cases where such contracts, promises, or engagements shall have been lawfully made before the time at which this Act shall take effect in any such colony.

XXI. And be it enacted, that this Act shall take effect and have the force of law in each of the Australian colonies from the day of the receipt of a copy thereof by the Governor of such colony, which day such Governor shall certify and make known to the inhabitants of such colony by a proclamation, to be by him for that purpose forthwith issued.

XXII. And be it enacted, that by the words "Australian colonies," as employed in this Act, are intended and described the colonies of New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, and New Zealand, with their respective dependencies, as such colonies are now or shall hereafter be defined and limited, and also any other colonies which may hereafter be established within any of the existing limits of the said five colonies, unless it shall in any case seem fit to Her Majesty, by any instrument under the Great Seal by which any such new colony may be founded, to postpone, either for any period to be therein limited, or indefinitely, as to Her Majesty shall seem meet, the time at which this Act shall take effect within any such new colony, in which case this Act shall take effect therein from the time to be so limited by such Commission, and not before.

XXIII. And be it enacted, that by the word "Governor," as employed in the present Act, is intended and described the person who for the time being shall be lawfully administering the Government of any of the said colonies respectively; and that the several proclamations which the Governors of the said respective colonies are hereby authorized to issue shall be so issued by him under the public seal of the colony, and shall be made public in the most authentic and formal manner in use in any such colony; and that by the words "waste lands of the Crown," as used in the present Act, are intended and described any lands situate therein, and which now are or shall hereafter be vested in Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, and which have not been already granted or lawfully contracted to be granted to any person or persons in fee simple, or for an estate of freehold, or for a term of years, and which have not been dedicated and set apart for some public use.

XXIV. And be it enacted, that this Act may be altered or amended during the present session of Parliament.

An Act to amend an Act for regulating the Sale of Waste Land belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies, and to make further provision for the Management thereof. [28th August, 1846.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to make further regulations respecting the occupation of the waste lands belonging to the Crown in the colonies of New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia, and for that purpose to repeal so much of an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the fifth and sixth year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for regulating the sale of Waste Lands belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies," as would prevent such regulations from taking effect: be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for Her Majesty to demise for any term of years not exceeding fourteen, to any person or persons, any waste lands of the Crown in the colonies of New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia, or to grant to any person or persons a licence for the occupation for any term of years not exceeding fourteen, of any waste lands, and to reserve upon such demise or licence any such rent or pecuniary or other service, and to insert therein such conditions and clauses of forfeiture, as shall in

manner hereinafter mentioned be prescribed and authorized, anything in the said recited Act to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: provided always, that every such demise or licence shall be made or granted subject to the rules and regulations hereinafter provided for.

II. And be it enacted, that the rent or pecuniary service so reserved on any such demise or licence as aforesaid shall be applicable to such and the same purposes only, and shall be applied in such and the same manner, as the sums produced by the sale of lands effected under the authority and in pursuance of the said recited Act.

III. And whereas it may be necessary that effectual provision should be made for protecting such waste lands as aforesaid from being occupied without authority, and also for dispossessing any person in the occupation of any such waste lands as aforesaid, in case of the forfeiture of any such demise or licence, or in case of the breach or non-performance of the conditions thereof, or in case of the holding over by any such person or persons after the expiration of any such demise or licence, or after the end of the term for which the same may have been granted or made; be it enacted, that on information in writing for that purpose preferred by the Governor for the time being of any such colony as aforesaid, or by any person authorized by any such Governor on that behalf, to any Justice of the Peace acting in and for any of the colonies as aforesaid, or in any and for any county or other district thereof, setting forth that any person or persons is or are in the unlawful occupation of any of the waste lands of the Crown in any such colony, or is or are in the occupation of any such lands in virtue or under colour of any such demise or licence as aforesaid, although such demise or licence had been forfeited, or although the conditions thereof had been broken or unfulfilled, or although such demise or licence had expired, or although the term for which the same had been granted or made had come to an end, it shall be the duty of such Justice to issue his summons for the appearance before any two Justices of the Peace, at a place and a time therein to be specified, of the person or persons against whom any such complaint shall be so made, and at the time and place so to be specified, such two Justices (on the appearance of the person or persons charged, or on due proof of the service on him, her, or them, or at his, her, or their usual place of abode, of any such summons,) shall proceed to hear and inquire of the truth of the matter and things which may be

alleged in any such information, and on being satisfied of the truth thereof, either by the admission of the person or persons charged, or on other good and sufficient evidence, the said Justices shall issue under their hand a warrant addressed to the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff, or Commissioner, or other officer of the colony or district acting for or on behalf of Her Majesty, commanding and requiring him forthwith to dispossess and remove any such person or persons from any such waste lands of the Crown, as aforesaid, and to take possession of the same for or on behalf of Her Majesty; and it shall be the duty of any such Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, Commissioner, or other such officer as aforesaid, to carry such warrant forthwith into execution, according to the tenor and exigency thereof: provided always, that nothing hereinbefore contained shall extend to any person having occupied waste lands within the boundary of location without interruption, for the space of twenty years next before the passing of this Act.

IV. And be it enacted, that from and after the day when this Act shall come into effect in the manner hereinafter mentioned, any person, unless claiming under a sale or demise from Her Majesty, or from some person acting in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, who shall be found occupying any waste lands of the Crown in any of the colonies aforesaid, either by residing or by erecting any hut or building thereon, or by clearing, enclosing, or cultivating any part thereof, or who shall depasture any cattle thereon, and who shall not previously have obtained a licence from the said Governor for the occupation of such lands, or who shall occupy or depasture as aforesaid, after such licence shall have been determined by forfeiture or otherwise, shall be liable on conviction thereof to the penalties following: that is to say, for the first offence, a sum not exceeding ten pounds, for the second offence, a sum not exceeding twenty pounds, nor less than ten pounds, and for the third or any subsequent offence, a sum not exceeding fifty pounds, nor less than twenty pounds: provided always, that no information shall be laid or brought for any second or subsequent offence until the expiration of fourteen clear days from the date of the previous conviction.

V. And be it enacted, that the penalties hereinbefore imposed shall be recovered in a summary way before any one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, upon the information or complaint on oath of the Governor for the time being of such colony as aforesaid, or of any person authorized by any such Governor on that behalf.

VI. And whereas it may be expedient that various rules and regulations should be made respecting the more effectually making demises or licences for the term aforesaid of any such waste lands as aforesaid, and respecting the reservation on such demises or licences of any such or pecuniary services, and respecting the insertion therein of such conditions and clauses of forfeiture as aforesaid; and respecting the division of the said colonies into districts, within which alone such demises or licences may be made to take effect, and respecting the renewal of any such demises or licences, and respecting the conflicting claims of different persons to obtain any such demise or licence, and respecting any right of pre-emption which it may be proper to give to the holders of any such demise or licence, and respecting the forfeiture of any such demises or licences on the conviction of any holders thereof of certain offences in any such colony, and respecting any other matters and things which may be requisite, either for carrying into more complete effect the occupation in manner aforesaid of such waste lands as aforesaid, or for preventing the abuses incident thereto; be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order or Orders in Council, to make and establish all such rules and regulations as to Her Majesty shall seem meet for the purposes aforesaid, or for any of them, and any such rules and regulations, again to repeal, renew, alter, and amend, and that all such Orders in Council shall have the force and effect of law in the colonies aforesaid: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the sale of any waste lands in the said colonies, otherwise than in conformity with the provision of the said Act, except to persons who shall be in actual occupation thereof under such demise or licence as aforesaid; or to authorize the sale of any such lands for a lower price than the minimum price at that time established therein by the authority of the said recited Act; Provided also, that all such Orders in Council shall be laid before Parliament within one month from the day of the date thereof respectively, if Parliament shall then be in session, or if not, then within one month next after the commencement of the then next ensuing session of Parliament, and that no such order, repealing, renewing, altering, or amending any such former order, shall be of any force or effect till the lapse of six months next after such repealing, renewing, altering, or amending order shall have been so laid before Parliament; and that all such Orders in Council shall be published forthwith in the *London Gazette*.

VII. And for the protection of persons acting in execution of this Act be it enacted, that all actions or other proceedings for anything done under this Act shall be commenced within six calendar months after the matter complained of was committed, and not otherwise; and notice in writing of such action, and the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and in every such action the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence, at any trial to be had thereupon; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action was brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into Court after such action brought, by or on behalf of the defendant, together with costs incurred up to that time; and if a verdict shall pass before the defendant, or the plaintiff become nonsuited, or discontinue such action after issue joined, or if, upon demurrer or otherwise, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover his full costs as between attorney and client, and have the like remedy for the same, as any defendant hath by law in other cases; and although a verdict shall be given for the plaintiff in such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant unless the Judge before whom the trial shall be shall certify his approbation of the action, and of the verdict obtained thereupon.

VIII. And be it enacted, that no order, judgment, or other proceeding made touching or concerning the matters aforesaid, or touching and concerning the conviction of any offender or offenders against this Act, shall be quashed or vacated for want of form only, or be removed or removeable by certiorari, or any writ or process whatsoever, into any superior Court of Jurisdiction in any such colony.

IX. And be it enacted, that the word "Governor," as employed in this Act, is intended to describe the officer for the time being administering the Government of any of the colonies aforesaid; and the words "Waste Lands of the Crown," as employed in this Act, are intended to describe any lands in the said colonies whether within or without the limits allotted to settlers for location, and which now are or hereafter shall be vested in Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, and which have not been already granted or lawfully contracted to be granted by Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to any other person or persons in fee simple, and which have not been dedicated or set apart for some public use.

X. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for Her Majesty, by any such Order in Council as aforesaid, to delegate to the Governor of any of the Colonies aforesaid (on such conditions as Her Majesty shall see fit to impose) all or any of the powers hereby vested in Her Majesty, save only so far as respects the powers so to be exercised by Her Majesty as aforesaid, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council.

XI. And be it enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act, the said recited Act shall not apply to land situate in the colony of New Zealand: Provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend to invalidate any act done in the said colony, in pursuance of the said recited Act, before, or within one month after the passing of this Act shall have been made known by Proclamation by the Governor of the said colony to the inhabitants thereof.

XII. And be it enacted, that the said recited Act, so far as it is repugnant to this present Act, or would prevent the execution thereof, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

XIII. And be it enacted, that this Act shall take effect and have the force of law in each of the said colonies of New South Wales, Southern Australia, and Western Australia, from and after a day to be specified by the Governor of each of such colonies in some Proclamation to be issued by him for that purpose.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL FOR CARRYING OUT THE WASTE LANDS ACT.

At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 9th day of March, 1847.

Present:—The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Lord Chamberlain, Earl of Auckland, Viscount Palmerston, Bishop of London, Lord Campbell.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the present year of Her Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend an Act for regulating the Sale of Waste Land belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies, and to make further provision for the management thereof," after reciting that it might be expedient that various rules and regulations should be made respecting the more effectually making demises or licences for any term of years not exceeding fourteen, of any such waste lands as therein mentioned, and respecting the

reservation on such demises or licences, of any such rents or other pecuniary services, and respecting the insertion therein of such conditions and clauses of forfeiture as are therein mentioned, and respecting the division of the said colonies into districts within which alone such demises or licences might be made to take effect, and respecting the renewal of any such demises or licences, and respecting the conflicting claims of different persons to obtain any such demise or licence, and respecting any right of pre-emption which it might be proper to give to the holders of any such demise or licence, and respecting the forfeiture of any such demises or licences, on the conviction of any holders thereof of certain offences in any such colony, and respecting any other matters and things which might be requisite, either for carrying into more complete effect the occupation in manner therein mentioned, of such waste lands as aforesaid, or for preventing the abuses incident thereto; it was enacted, that it should be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order in Council, to make and establish all such rules and regulations as to Her Majesty should seem meet for the purposes aforesaid, or for any of them, and any such rules and regulations again to repeal, renew, alter, and amend; and that all such Orders in Council should have the force and effect of law in the colonies aforesaid.

And whereas it is expedient that the rules and regulations hereinafter contained, should now be made and established, for regulating the occupation of the waste lands of the Crown in the colony of New South Wales, it is hereby ordered by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, that within the said colony of New South Wales, the rules and regulations comprised in the following chapters shall henceforth be observed and have the force and effect of law.

Chapter I.

AS TO THE DIVISION OF THE LANDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Section 1. The lands in the colony of New South Wales shall, for the purposes of the present order, be considered as divided into three classes, and be dealt with accordingly as they may be situated in districts to be denominated respectively as the settled, the intermediate, and the unsettled districts.

Section 2. The settled districts of the colony shall comprehend:—

First—The nineteen contiguous counties, the boundaries of which were settled and proclaimed before the 1st January, 1838.

Second—The counties or reputed counties of Macquarie and Stanley.

Third—The lands which may be within the distance of twenty-five miles, to be measured or reckoned from any point of the corporate limits of the town of Melbourne, in the county of Bourke.

Fourth—The lands which may be within the distance of fifteen miles from any point of the outward limits of the town of Geelong, in the county of Grant.

Fifth—The lands which may lie within the distance of ten miles from any point of the outward limits of each of the following towns or townships, viz.:—

Portland, in the county of Normanby. Alberton, in the district of Gipps Land. Eden, in the county of Auckland. Bathurst, in the county of Roxburgh. Wellington, in the county of the same name.

The town which has been established at the head of the navigation of the river Clarence.

The town of Macquarie, in the county of Macquarie.

The town of Ipswich, in the county of Stanley.

Sixth—The lands which may lie within the distance of three miles from any part of the sea, throughout the extent of the colony, measured in a strait line.

Seventh—The lands which may lie within the distance of two miles from either of the two opposite banks of any of the following rivers, viz.:—

The Glenelg, from a point to be fixed by the Governor, not lower than where the Glenelg receives the waters of the Crawford, nor higher than where it receives the waters of the Wannon.

The Clarence, from a point to be fixed by the Governor, at a distance not less than ten miles above the Government township, at the head of the navigation, and not less than fifty miles from the sea (measured in a straight line).

The river now known by the name of the Richmond, from a point to be fixed by the Governor, at a distance not less than twenty miles from the sea, measured along the course of the river.

Section 3. As to the intermediate districts.

The intermediate districts shall comprehend the lands lying within the counties or reputed counties of Bourke, Grant, and Normanby, in the district of Port Phillip, which are not hereinbefore directed to be included in the settled lands; also all the lands in the county or reputed county of Auckland, which are not

included in the settled lands as hereinbefore mentioned ; also the entire district of Gipps Land, except the parts included in the settled lands as hereinbefore mentioned ; also the counties, either already formed or intended to be formed, between the county of Auckland and the county of St. Vincent ; also any county or counties of which the boundaries may be fixed and proclaimed on or before the 31st December, 1848.

Section 4. As to the unsettled districts.

The unsettled districts shall comprehend all the lands of New South Wales, excepting such lands as are now, or hereafter lawfully may be, comprehended within the limits of the settled and intermediate lands within the said colony.

CHAPTER II.

RULES TO BE IN FORCE WITHIN THE UNSETTLED DISTRICTS.

Section 1. It shall be lawful for the Governor for the time being of the said colony, or the officer for the time being administering the government of the colony, and he is hereby empowered to grant leases of runs of land within the unsettled districts, to such person or persons, as he shall think fit, for any term or terms of years, not exceeding fourteen years in duration, for pastoral purposes, with permission, nevertheless, for the lessee to cultivate so much of the lands respectively comprised in the said runs as may be necessary to provide such grain, hay, vegetables, or fruit, for the use and supply of the family and establishment of such lessee, but not for the purposes of sale or barter; and so, nevertheless, that such leases shall in no case prejudice, interrupt, or interfere with the right of the Governor or other officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony to enter upon any of the lands comprised in the said leases for any purpose of public defence, safety, improvement, convenience, utility, or enjoyment; agreeably to the provisions for those purposes contained in the 9th section of the second chapter of this Order in Council, or otherwise.

Section 2. The rent to be paid for each several run of land shall be proportioned to the number of sheep, or equivalent number of cattle which the run shall be estimated as capable of carrying, according to a scale to be established for the purpose, by authority of the Governor. Each run shall be capable of carrying, at least, four thousand sheep, or equivalent number of cattle, according to the scale aforesaid, and not in any case be let at a lower rent than

ten pounds per annum, to which two pounds ten shillings per annum shall be added for every additional thousand sheep, or equivalent number of cattle, which the run shall be estimated as capable of carrying.

Section 3. In order to estimate the number of sheep or cattle which each run will carry, before the granting of the said lease as hereinbefore mentioned, the intended lessee or occupier shall name a valuer, and the Commissioner of Crown lands shall either act as valuer, or name one to act for him; and these two valuers shall have power to choose, if necessary, an umpire; but if they cannot agree in the choice of an umpire, he shall be appointed by the Governor, or the officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony.

Section 4. The rents to be paid according to the scale abovementioned, are to be reserved exclusively of any existing assessments of taxes or rates on sheep and cattle, and are to be paid without abatement on account of the existing or any future assessments of taxes or rates on sheep and cattle, and in no way to interfere with the right of the colonial legislature to impose from time to time such assessments as may be deemed advisable.

Section 5. The rent for each run shall be payable yearly in advance, at such time and place as shall be respectively specified in the lease of the said run of land. In the event of default being made in payment of the rent, the lease shall be forfeited, but the lessee shall be permitted to defeat the forfeiture, and prevent its becoming absolute and indefeasible, by payment, within sixty days from the date of the original rent day, of the full annual rent, with the addition of a sum equal to one equal fourth part of the yearly rent so due from him, by way of penalty; but unless the whole of the said yearly rent, with such penalty as aforesaid, shall be duly paid within the term of sixty days, counting from the original rent day inclusive, the lease shall be absolutely and indefeasibly forfeited. And it shall be competent to any individual to demand of the Governor, or of the officer for the time being administering the government of the colony, or of any officer or officers acting by his authority for the present purpose, that a fresh lease of the run so forfeited be offered for sale, under the general rule hereinafter provided for that purpose in Section 12 of this chapter.

Section 6. During the continuance of any lease of lands occupied as a run, the same shall not be open to purchase by any other person or persons except the lessee thereof. But it shall be lawful

for the Governor or the officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, to sell to such lessee any of the lands comprised in the lease granted to such lessee, provided that the quantity of the lands sold to such lessee shall not be less than one hundred and sixty acres, and that the price to be paid for the same shall not be below the general minimum price of one pound for each acre: Provided also, that if the portion or lot of any such run sold to such lessee be less in extent than three hundred and twenty acres, the expenses of the survey of the portion so sold shall be paid by the purchaser.

Section 7. Every lot to be sold under the provisions beforementioned shall be subject to the following conditions:—

First.—Each lot must be rectangular, unless the features of the country, or the course of any river or stream, render a deviation from the rectangular form necessary; and in every case, two sides at least of the lot must be directed to the cardinal points of the compass.

Second.—The two opposite sides of any stream or watercourse which, according to the practice of the department of the Surveyor-General, ought to form a boundary between different sections or lots, shall in no case be included in the same lot.

Third.—No single lot shall have more than four hundred and forty yards of water frontage for one hundred and sixty acres, or more than a like proportion of water frontage for any quantity greater than one hundred and sixty acres, but the water frontage shall be reckoned according to the distance from one extreme point thereof to the other in a right line, and not according to the bendings of the water-course or river; and the Governor or officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, shall have the right of refusing to sell any lot or lots, in every case where it may appear to him that the sale of such lot or lots respectively, might give an undue command over water required for the beneficial occupation and cultivation of the lands adjoining either side of any stream or water-course.

Section 8. It shall be lawful for the Governor or officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, to except out of any such sale or sales as aforesaid, all such lands as it may appear to him expedient to reserve for any of the public uses for which it is enacted by the third clause of the Act passed in the fifth and sixth years of Her Majesty, chapter 86, intituled "An Act for regulating the Sale of Waste Lands belonging to the

Crown in the Australian Colonies," that lands required for public uses may be excepted from sales authorized by that Act, and if there be reason to suppose that any of the lands applied for under the regulations hereby expressed possess peculiar advantages, whether of water frontage or otherwise, which would render it fit that a higher price should be paid for such lands, the Governor or the officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, or any officer authorized by him for the purpose, may require the said lands to be assessed by valuers appointed, in manner provided in Section 3 of the second chapter of this Order in Council, in order that the value, if estimated by them or their umpire at more than one pound per acre, the higher amount may be paid for such lands accordingly.

Section 9. That nothing in these regulations, or in any lease to be granted under the powers hereby vested in the Governor, shall prevent the said Governor or officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, from making grants or sales of any lands within the limits of the run or lands comprised in such lease, for public purposes, or disposing of in such other manner as for the public interest may seem best, such lands as may be required for the sites of churches, schools, or parsonages, or for the construction of high roads or railways and railway stations or other internal communications, whether by land or water, or for the use or benefit of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, or for public buildings, or as places for the interment of the dead, or places for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of any town or village, or as the sites of public quays, or landing places on the sea coast or shores of navigable streams, or for the purpose of sinking shafts and digging for coals, iron, copper, lead, or other minerals, and effectually working coal, or iron, or copper, lead, or other minerals, or for any other purpose of public defence, safety, utility, convenience, or enjoyment, or for otherwise facilitating the improvement and settlement of the colony, but so that the quantity of land which may be granted or sold to any railway company shall not exceed in all the rate of one hundred acres for every mile thereof in length.

Section 10. That if at any future period a railroad be made through or near to the districts comprising unsettled lands, all lands within the distance of two miles from that railroad shall, notwithstanding any lease of the run within which such lands shall be situated, be liable to be sold at the end of each successive year

from the date of the said lease; provided that at least sixty days' previous notice shall have been given to the lessee, and so that such lessee shall be entitled to all the same conditions, reserving to the previous lessee the right of pre-emption and the value of improvements as are hereinafter mentioned, with reference to the case of a sale at the expiration of the full term of such lease.

Section 11. All occupants of Crown Lands who shall have been in licensed occupation of the same for at least one year at the time when this Order in Council shall come into effect, are to be entitled to demand leases of their respective runs under the present regulations, within six months from the date of the publication of this Order in Council by the Governor or other officer administering the Government of the said colony, but not afterwards; and all occupants who have been in licensed occupation of their lands for a shorter period than the term of one year, shall be entitled, upon the expiration of the same term of one year, without having forfeited their respective licenses, to demand leases of their respective runs, under the regulations herein contained; provided such lease shall be lawfully demanded within six months after the expiration of the said term of one year, but not afterwards.

Section 12. When any run of lands, after being occupied, shall be forfeited, or become vacant without the previous occupant having exercised his right of renewal hereinafter reserved, it shall be competent for any person desirous of acquiring a lease of such run of lands, to give notice to the Governor or officer for the time being administering the Government of the said colony, of his, her, or their desire to purchase anew the lease of such run of land, and immediately after such notice the Governor or officer administering the Government of the said colony shall direct sealed tenders to be sent in at such time and place, and in such form as he shall think fit, by the person giving such notice as aforesaid; and also by such other person (if any) as may be disposed to enter into competition for the said lease; and every tender so to be made shall state the term of years for which it is proposed to take the said run, and whether in addition to the minimum rents required agreeably to the provisions contained in sections 2 and 3 of the second chapter of this Order in Council, it is proposed to offer any, and if any, what amount of premium for the lease; and the said tender or tenders shall be opened in the presence of two or more persons authorized by the Governor or officer for the time being administering the Government of the said colony for that purpose, and if

there shall be more than one tender, the tenders shall be opened at the same time, and if there shall be only one tender, the lease of the run shall be given to the person making such tender, provided the rent offered shall be admissible under the provisions contained in sections 2 and 3 of this chapter of the Order in Council; but if there shall be more competitors than one, the lease of the run shall be given to such person or persons as shall tender the highest amount of premium for the same; but if two or more tenders shall be made for the same run, and no one of them be higher than all the rest, a future day shall be announced by the person who opens the tenders, on which day it shall again be competent to all persons to offer fresh tenders in the same manner as hereinbefore provided in regard to the first tenders.

Section 13. If any individual be desirous to acquire a new run of land which has never been occupied before, he shall be at liberty to send in a sealed tender, at such time and place, and in such form as may be appointed by the Governor or officer administering the Government of the said colony, for receiving tenders for new runs, and shall set forth in his tender a clear description of the run for which he applies, and of the boundaries of the same, and shall state whether, beyond the amount of rent to be ascertained as hereinbefore provided, he is willing to offer any, and if any, what amount of premium for the lease, and such tenders shall be in all respects dealt with as hereinbefore provided in section 12 of this Order in Council for tenders for runs, which have been forfeited or fallen vacant, save and except that if it shall occur that two or more persons have thus applied for different runs, of which part of one run would include part or the whole of another run, the Governor or officer for the time being administering the Government of the said colony, or the person or persons authorized by him to act in this behalf, shall declare what shall be the several runs, for which it shall be competent to parties to tender, and another day shall then be named, at which the previous applicants, and all other persons, shall be at liberty to offer fresh tenders for the runs so delivered.

Section 14. A lease shall be liable to forfeiture in three modes:—

First—It shall be forfeited for non-payment of rent, as provided in section 5 of the 2nd chapter of the Order in Council.

Second—It shall be forfeited absolutely, immediately upon any conviction for felony against the lessee; and

Third—In the event of his conviction by a Justice of the District

any offence against the law, the case may be inquired into within three months after the conviction, by two or more Justices, who if they think fit, may adjudge the lease to be forfeited with or without compensation for the value of the improvements, according to the nature of the offence: Provided always, that no such adjudication of forfeiture pronounced by the Justices shall take effect until confirmed by the Governor or officer administering the Government of the said colony.

Section 15. Upon the expiration of a lease, it shall be competent for the Governor or officer administering the Government of the said colony, to put up all or any part of the lands included in a run for sale, subject to the following conditions:—

First—The previous lessee shall have the option of purchasing the land for its fair value in an unimproved state, which shall never be estimated at less than £1 per acre.

Second—If declined by the previous lessee, the value of any improvements on the land offered for sale shall be ascertained by valuers appointed under the provisions contained in section 3 of the second chapter of this Order in Council: Provided, nevertheless, that the sum so to be estimated and allowed for, is in no case to exceed the amount of the actual outlay made by the lessee.

Third—The upset price shall then consist of the joint value of the land and the improvements, and if the land be sold, the amount of the improvements shall be paid over to the previous lessee, and only the balance be retained by the Government.

Section 16. If no part of the run be sold, the previous lessee shall be entitled to a renewal of the lease of the whole, or if any part of the run not amounting in all to one equal fourth thereof, be sold, such lessee shall be entitled to a renewal of the lease for the remaining parts of the lands comprised in his run, subject to the reservation of an increased rent described in the next hereinafter following section of these rules and regulations; and provided, nevertheless, that the boundaries of the different classes of land in the colony shall not in the meanwhile have been so far extended as to bring the said run within the class of settled lands; and provided also, that if brought within the class of intermediate lands, the lessee shall only obtain a renewed lease of the said run under the rules hereinafter laid down as applicable to that class of lands.

Section 18. The rent of every lease of a run of land, after the expiration of the first lease granted under this Order in Council, is to be paid by any new lessee on the number of sheep and cattle

which the run shall be estimated to carry in its improved, instead of its unimproved state, in the same manner as provided for in section 3 of the second chapter of this Order in Council; but as an encouragement to improve, the lessee whose lease shall be renewed is to be exempt from paying any increase beyond fifty per cent upon the amount of rent reserved under the expired lease.

Chapter III.

RULES APPLICABLE TO INTERMEDIATE LANDS.

Section 1. Within lands coming under the description of intermediate lands, the interests in runs shall be acquired, held, and determined upon the same terms and conditions as above laid down for unsettled lands, excepting that the leases shall not be made for more than eight years in duration, and that at the end of each successive year from the date of the leases, it shall be competent for the Governor or officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, provided he shall have given sixty days' previous notice, to offer for sale all or any part of the lands within any such run, subject to the same conditions in favour of the lessee as are above laid down in case of a sale at the expiration of the full term of a lease of unsettled lands.

Chapter IV.

RULES APPLICABLE TO SETTLED LANDS.

Section 1. Within the boundaries of the settled lands, it shall be competent for the Governor or officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, to grant leases of lands exclusively for pastoral purposes, for terms not exceeding one year; and it shall further be competent for the Governor or officer for the time being administering the government of the said colony, if he deem it expedient, to make general rules, under which the holders of purchased lands within such districts of settled lands may be permitted to depasture, free of charge, any adjacent Crown lands: Provided that the depasturage of such unsettled lands free of charge shall in no way interfere with the right of the Government at any time to dispose of the same, either by sale or by lease for one year as above mentioned.

And the Right Honourable Earl Grey, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

WM. L. BATHURST.

The grants for Public Works in the Port Phillip, or Australia Felix district, in the years 1844, 1845, and 1846, being sums voted by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, amounted to £38,519 5s. 9¾d.

LIVE STOCK—Port Phillip District.

	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
Bourke	1,617	23,907	2,036	102,6
Grant	682	7,124	1,100	105,732
Normanby	766	33,310	434	146,071
Without the Boundaries	8,335	226,098	2,297	2,642,512

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Detailed Estimates of Expenditure of the Colonial Governmen of South Australia, for the year 1848, in Departments:—

The Governor	£1,500	0	0
The Governor's Establishment	424	0	0
Councils	£655	0	0
Colonial Secretary's	2,129	0	0
Treasury	835	0	0
Registry	427	0	0
Audit	795	0	0
Customs	2,695	0	0
Crown Lands	795	0	0
Survey	3,396	15	0
Public Works	1,441	13	0

Post Office	£1,727	16	0
Harbour	2,427	0	0
Colonial Storekeeper	200	0	0
Out-Stations	1,130	0	0
Police	945	0	0
Metropolitan Police	2,786	13	6
Mounted Police	6,819	13	0
Town Surveyor and Assessor	385	0	0
Aborigines	1,741	6	8
Medical	887	7	0
Lunatic Asylum	527	0	0

JUDICIAL AND LAW ESTABLISHMENTS.

Supreme Court	1,922	0	0
Insolvent Court	255	0	0
Resident Magistrate's Court	770	0	0
Bench of Magistrates	155	0	0
Sheriff's	1,673	0	0
Advocate-General's	660	0	0
Coroner's	170	0	0
Clergy—			
Colonial Chaplain	350	0	0
Religious and Educational Purposes	2,226	16	0
Public Works and Improvements—			
Dredging in Harbour and at the Bar 800			
Light-house at the entrance of the Harbour 2,300			
Powder Magazine 362			
Repairs to the Main Lines of Roads 2,000			
Road towards the North Arm 3,000			
Unforeseen Works and Repairs 1,000			
	9,462	0	0
Miscellaneous—			
Maintenance of Destitute Poor 600			
Interest on Colonial Revenue Securities 3,003			
Rent of Courts and Law Offices 300			
Carried forward	3,903	0	0

Brought forward	£3,903	0	0
Expenses of Medical Witnesses under Ordinance of Council No. 17, 1844	50		
Purchase of two Fire Engines -	500		
Purchase of a set of Types and Presses for Government Printing -	600		
Unforeseen Expenses - - .	500		
	5,553	0	0

Bill to promote the Building of Churches and Places of Worship, and to provide for the Maintenance of Ministers of Religion in South Australia.

WHEREAS for the advancement of the Christian religion, and the promotion of good morals in South Australia, it is expedient to encourage the observance of public worship, and for this purpose to authorize the issue from the public revenue of the said province of sums to be applied in aid of the building of churches and places of worship, and of the maintenance of ministers of religion:

Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, that whenever a sum not less than one hundred and fifty pounds shall have been raised by private contribution, and applied towards the building of a church or place of worship, or a dwelling, where the same may be deemed necessary, for the officiating minister thereof, in any part of the said province, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, by warrant under his hand, and subject to such regulations for the due appropriation and application thereof, as shall from time to time be made by the said Governor, to issue from the Colonial Treasury, in aid of the undertaking, any sum of money not exceeding the amount of the said private contribution: Provided always, that nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to authorize the issue from the Colonial Treasury in aid of any church or place of worship, or minister's dwelling, of any sum exceeding three hundred pounds; and that no sum shall be so issued in aid of any private contribution, unless such contribution shall be paid up and expended within three years from the date of the first issue from the Colonial Treasury, on behalf

of the said undertaking: Provided further, that nothing herein contained shall prevent, or be construed to prevent, the appropriation, for the purposes aforesaid, of any sum exceeding three hundred pounds by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council.

II. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, by warrant under his hand as aforesaid, to authorize from time to time the issue from the Colonial Treasury of stipends towards the support of the ministers of religion duly appointed to officiate in any churches or places of worship to be erected in manner aforesaid, or in any churches or places of worship already erected, and of which Trustees shall be appointed for the maintenance thereof, as hereinafter mentioned, by virtue of this Ordinance, such stipends being issued at the several rates hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, in case it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council that there is resident within a reasonable distance of the proposed church or place of worship, a population of one hundred adult persons, and such persons shall subscribe a declaration setting forth their desire to attend such church or place of worship, it shall be lawful to issue to the minister thereof, from the Colonial Treasury in manner aforesaid, one hundred pounds a year: and in case there should appear to the said Governor and Executive Council to be resident as aforesaid two hundred adults, who shall subscribe such declaration, then one hundred and fifty pounds a year; and in case there shall appear to the Governor and Executive Council to be so resident five hundred adults, who shall subscribe such declaration, then two hundred pounds a year, which shall be the highest stipend to be issued from the Colonial Treasury under the provisions of this Ordinance towards the support of any one officiating minister of religion.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, that in case the number of persons by whom, or in whose behalf, such declaration as aforesaid shall be subscribed, shall be less than the number of one hundred, it shall nevertheless be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to cause to be issued a stipend to the minister of any such church or place of worship, of one hundred pounds a year, if under the special circumstances of the case, the Governor and Executive Council shall deem it expedient.

IV. And be it enacted, that whenever it shall be made to appear

to the Governor and Executive Council that the number of persons of the religious denomination for whom an issue of money shall have been made from the Colonial Treasury in aid of the erection of a church or place of worship, and minister's dwelling as aforesaid, in any district of the province, shall have increased therein, then and in such case, upon a declaration subscribed by so many adult persons as would authorize, under the provisions of this Ordinance, the issue of a larger stipend to the minister officiating at such church or place of worship, being presented to the Governor and Executive Council, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to direct the issue of the stipend proportioned to such increased numbers, as is by this Ordinance directed.

V. And be it enacted, that whenever any sum not less than fifty pounds for any one year, shall be raised by private contribution towards the maintenance of a minister of religion, in any part of the province in which there shall be no church or place of worship, at which persons of the creed of such minister can be reasonably expected to attend, and there shall also appear reasonable cause for delaying the erection of a permanent church or place of worship for the use of such persons under the foregoing provisions, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to cause to be issued from the Colonial Treasury, towards the maintenance of such minister, any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, which shall be equivalent to the sum raised by private contribution as aforesaid.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, that once at least in every year for which the stipend of any minister shall be issued as aforesaid, such proof shall be produced to the Governor and Executive Council as they shall require of the sufficient and regular performance of the duties in respect of which such stipend shall be respectively issed; and if it shall appear to the said Governor in Council that the said duties have been culpably or wilfully neglected, it shall be lawful for the said Governor and Council to withdraw the said stipend for such time as to them shall seem proper.

VII. And be it enacted, that before any sum of money shall be issued from the Colonial Treasury towards the building of any church or place of worship and minister's dwelling, in the manner aforesaid, trustees, not less than three nor more than five in number,

shall be nominated by the persons contributing towards the building and maintenance of the same, for the approval of the Governor and Executive Council; and that the real estate in the site of such church, place of worship, or minister's dwelling, and of any lands and hereditaments thereunto belonging, shall be conveyed to the said trustees and their successors, appointed in pursuance of this Ordinance, upon trust for the erection, maintenance, and repair of such church or place of worship and minister's dwelling, and for the provision out of the revenues belonging to or arising from the use of the said church or place of worship, in such manner as shall be lawfully appointed, of all things necessary for the celebration of divine worship therein; and to the trustees shall be issued, under such regulations for the due appropriation and application thereof as hereinbefore mentioned, all such sums of money as by the provisions of this Ordinance are authorized to be issued in aid of the erection of any church or place of worship and minister's dwelling.

VIII. And be it enacted, that such Trustees may be appointed in manner following, that is to say, whenever any person or persons shall at his, her, or their own cost and expense erect or provide a church or place of worship, which shall be approved by the proper authority, for the celebration of public worship, according to the usages of the church or religious persuasion to which it professes to belong, or any minister's dwelling, burial-ground, or glebe land; or whenever any number of persons shall by subscription contribute any sum not less than three hundred pounds for or towards erecting or providing a church or place of worship and minister's dwelling or burial-ground or glebe land as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the person or persons so erecting or providing the same, at his, her, or their own cost, to nominate as Trustees of such church or place of worship any number of persons not less than three or more than five; and for the subscribers, towards erecting or providing such church or place of worship and minister's dwelling, burial-ground, or glebe land as aforesaid, to elect by plurality of votes from among themselves, any number of Trustees within the limits aforesaid, subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council, under the provisions of this Ordinance; and such election shall take place at a meeting of the subscribers, of the time and place of holding which fourteen days' previous notice shall have been duly given; and every person having subscribed and paid one pound towards the erection of any

such church or place of worship, and being also a member of such church or religious persuasion, shall be entitled to vote at all elections of Trustees for the same, until such church or place of worship shall have been completed.

IX. And be it enacted, that every person so to be nominated or elected a Trustee of any church or place of worship, shall be a member of the church or religious persuasion to which the same professes to belong, frequenting its public services, and not known to impugn publicly any of its doctrines; and the names of all Trustees so nominated or elected shall, on being approved as by this Ordinance is required, be, by direction of the Governor by writing under his hand, enrolled in the General Registry Office of the province.

X. And be it enacted, that any such Trustees as aforesaid who shall leave the province, and shall be absent therefrom more than six months in succession, or whose ordinary residence shall be more than twenty miles distant from the church or place of worship of which he is a Trustee, or who shall be a confirmed lunatic, or become disqualified as hereinbefore mentioned, shall and may be removed from his office by a general meeting of Trustees assembled, after fourteen days' previous notice, given by the remaining Trustees, or the greater number of them.

XI. And be it enacted, that whenever and as often as any Trustee, nominated or elected as aforesaid under the provisions hereof, shall die or resign his office with the consent of his co-Trustees, or shall be removed as aforesaid, the surviving or continuing Trustees shall forthwith call a meeting of the subscribers, if the church or place of worship shall not have been then completed and opened for divine service, or of the seat-holders therein, after that period, (as the case may require,) for the purpose of electing a new Trustee in the place of one so dying, or desiring to resign, or removed as aforesaid; and the election of such new Trustee shall at all times before the completion and opening of such church or place of worship be made by the subscribers thereto, and shall at all times after the completion and opening thereof be made by the seat-holders, and the same notice shall be given of the time and place of the said meeting; and the same proceedings shall be observed in all other respects as to the election of such Trustee as upon the original nomination or election of Trustees; provided however, that no Trustee shall be permitted to resign his office until he shall

duly have accounted, to the satisfaction of his co-Trustees, for all sums of money at any time received by him in his said trust.

XII. And be it enacted, that if the surviving or continuing trustees of any such church or place of worship, shall not within one month after the death, resignation, or removal of any trustee, give public notice of a meeting of subscribers, or seat-holders, as the case may be, for the election of a new trustee, it shall and may be lawful for any six of the subscribers, or seat-holders, upon giving fourteen days' public notice, to assemble a meeting as the case may be, of the subscribers, or seat-holders, being members as aforesaid, and to proceed to the election of a new trustee.

XIII. And be it enacted, that the new trustee to be nominated as aforesaid, pursuant to this Ordinance, shall become jointly with the continuing or surviving trustees or trustee, a trustee of the site of the church or place of worship, or of the minister's dwelling, burial-ground, or glebe land, in respect whereof he shall be so nominated; and, upon such nomination being approved by the Governor and Executive Council, and being by direction of the Governor, by writing under his hand, enrolled in the General Registry Office, pursuant to this Ordinance, the legal estate shall by force of this Ordinance, and without any conveyance, become vested in possession in the new trustee, jointly with the continuing or surviving trustees or trustee, upon the same trusts as in the original conveyance.

XIV. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for such trustees so nominated, elected, or appointed in respect of any church or place of worship as aforesaid, or for the major part of them, and they are hereby authorized and required to set apart one-fourth part of the whole number of sittings contained in the same, to be appropriated free of any charge whatsoever to the use and accommodation of persons choosing to occupy the same during the time of the celebration of public worship, or of any rite or ordinance pertaining thereto; and also one pew containing not more than six sittings, nor less than four, for the use and occupation, free from all charges, of the family or household of the minister officiating in such church or place of worship; and it shall and may be lawful for such trustees, or the major part of them, and they are hereby authorized and required to assess and fix equitably the annual rent or rate for each pew or sitting in every such church or place of worship, with the exception of such pews and sittings

as are hereinbefore declared to be free from charge, and to make agreements and contracts with any persons desirous to hire or engage the same according to such assessed rent or rate: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any person having erected or provided a church or place of worship, or burial-ground, in manner hereinbefore mentioned at his, her, or their own cost and expense, from retaining for the use of himself or herself, and his or her heirs, one pew in such church or place of worship free from rent, or from reserving any sufficient portion of such ground at his or her disposal as a place of burial for ever.

XV. And be it enacted, that in estimating the majority of seat-holders at any such meeting as aforesaid, and in taking the votes of seat-holders at such meetings (which votes may be given in person, or causing to be presented to the chairman, a voting paper signed by each seat-holder) every individual shall be entitled to one vote in respect of each seat or sitting holden by him: Provided that no person shall in any case have more than five votes: Provided also, that no person shall at any meeting be entitled to vote in respect of any seat or sitting, the rent of which shall be then due and unpaid.

XVI. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the minister duly appointed to officiate in any church or place of worship under this Ordinance, to have free access and admission to and in such church or place of worship, and the burial-ground belonging thereto, and every part thereof respectively, at all times as he shall think fit, and freely to exercise his spiritual functions therein respectively, without any hinderance or disturbance of the trustees of the same, or any person whatever; and such officiating minister shall and may, during such times as aforesaid, freely use, have, possess, and enjoy, the minister's dwelling-house, garden, appurtenances, and glebe, belonging to such church or place of worship, and receive, have, and take, the rents, profits, and issues, and every part thereof respectively: Provided always, that no such liberty of access and admission to such house of residence as aforesaid, nor occupation of the same for any length of time whatever, shall be construed to confer any right of property in the same upon the minister or other parties, by whom such house and the appurtenances may have been so occupied.

XVII. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any trustees appointed in manner mentioned in this Ordinance, to accept or

take from persons willing to give the same, any lands or hereditaments, adapted for the site of a church or place of worship, or of a minister's dwelling, with a garden and other appurtenances thereunto, or any lands or hereditaments adapted for the purposes of a burial-ground.

XVIII. And be it enacted, that every church, place of worship, and minister's dwelling, in the building of which any public monies shall have been expended, whether by contribution under this Ordinance or otherwise, shall with their respective appurtenances, be and continue to be, for ever dedicated to the purposes, and holden solely for the uses authorized by this Ordinance.

XIX. Provided always and be it enacted, that notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for any person or persons erecting or providing a church or chapel of the United Church of England and Ireland, at his, her, or their own expense, or for the subscribers jointly contributing any sum not less than ——— pounds towards erecting any such church or chapel, or minister's dwelling, to nominate the Bishop of South Australia for the time being, and his successors, to be the sole trustee and successive trustees of such church, or chapel, and minister's dwelling, with any burial-ground or glebe land which may be thereunto respectively annexed; and upon such nomination being declared to the Governor and Executive Council, and being, by the direction of the Governor, by writing under his hand, enrolled in the General Registry Office of the Province, in pursuant of this Ordinance, the site of such church, chapel, and minister's dwelling, and such burial-ground and glebe land, respectively, shall by force of this Ordinance, and without any other conveyance, vest in possession in the said Bishop and his successors upon the trusts herein mentioned; and such sum or sums of money shall be issued to him from the Colonial Treasury, towards the building of any church, chapel, or minister's dwelling, of the said United Church, as it may be lawful to issue to trustees, under the provisions of this ordinance: Provided that whenever the said Bishop shall be sole trustee, the power of setting apart and assessing the rents of pews, and of making agreements for letting the same, hereinbefore given to such trustees, shall be vested in and exercised by the churchwardens for the time being; and that one at least of such churchwardens shall be elected by such contributors or seat-holders as aforesaid in such manner as shall be approved according to the laws of the church.

XX. Provided always and be it enacted, that nothing herein contained respecting the mode of appointment of trustees, or the declaration of any uses aforesaid respectively, shall affect any existing trust or right whatever; and that if any such mode of election of trustees, or declaration of uses as aforesaid, shall be inconsistent with the customs or usages of any religious denomination, such customs and usages alone shall be followed, and no other.

XXI. Provided also and be it enacted, that in cases in which any other appointments shall be made, or in which any further or other trusts shall be declared, than such as are hereinbefore authorized, a model deed of each religious denomination, setting forth the mode of appointing trustees or other officers for managing the temporalities, the provision for creating a succession of such trustees or officers (where otherwise than by this Ordinance is provided), and for defining the manner in which the trusts are to be fulfilled, shall be enrolled in the General Registry Office: and from and after such enrollment, every such model deed shall have the same force and effect as if the particular clauses and provisions thereof had been herein particularly inserted: and the fee simple in the trust estate shall vest in possession in the trustees or officers and their successors in pursuance thereof, and subject to the trusts therein set forth, by force of this ordinance, without any other conveyance: Provided always, that every such model deed shall have been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council to be a deed recognised and established by, or in accordance with, the usages of the religious denomination to which it professes to belong, and shall have been thereafter directed by the Governor by writing under his hand so to be enrolled, pursuant to this Ordinance.

XXII. And be it enacted, that no salary shall in any case be issued, under the authority of this Ordinance to any minister whose appointment shall not have been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council to have been made in accordance with the laws and principles of the religious denomination to which such minister belongs, and that no salary shall be continued in any case to any minister after it shall have been certified to the Governor, by the proper authority of the church or persuasion to which such minister belongs, that he has been tried and found guilty by competent authority, according to the laws and usages of

LATELY PUBLISHED,

And may be had of all Booksellers.

THE GREEK TESTAMENT; Second Edition; containing copious Critical, Philological, and Explanatory Notes in ENGLISH from the most eminent Critics and Interpreters: with parallel passages from the Classics, and with references to Vigerus for Idioms, and Bos for Ellipses. The Various Readings are generally recorded under the text. Greek and English Indexes at the end. By the Rev. E. VALPY, B. D. 3 vols. 8vo. 2*l.* 5*s.* bds.—Two Plates are added, one illustrative of the *Travels of the Apostles*, and the other *a Map of Judea, and a Plan of the City and Temple of Jerusalem.*

This Work is intended for the use of Students in Divinity, as well as the Library.

'After a minute examination, the author of the present manual considers this edition of the Greek Testament as the most valuable of any that has yet been published, with critical and philological apparatus, especially for students who wish to purchase only ONE Edition of the Greek Testament.'—Horne's Introduction to the Bible.

THE GREEK SEPTUAGINT, with the APOCRYPHA; from the Oxford Edition of Bos and HOLMES. Pr. 1*l.* 4*s.* bds. one large volume.

This Edition is handsomely printed in one volume 8vo. FOR USE IN CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, as well as the Library.

'This elegantly-executed volume is very correctly printed, and (which cannot but recommend it to students in preference to the incorrect Cambridge and Amsterdam reprints of the Vatican text) its price is so reasonable as to place it within the reach of almost every one.'—Horne's Introduction to the Bible.

*** The Septuagint and Mr. Valpy's Testament may be had, bound uniformly in four handsome volumes.

GREEK GRADUS; or, A GREEK, LATIN, and ENGLISH PROSODIAL LEXICON; containing the Interpretation, in Latin and English, of all words which occur in the Greek Poets, from the earliest period to the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus, and also the Quantities of each syllable; thus combining the advantages of a Lexicon of the Greek Poets and a Greek Gradus. For the Use of Schools and Colleges. By the Rev. J. BRASSE, D. D. late Fellow of Trin. Coll., Camb. One thick Vol. 8vo. 24*s.* boards.

ROBINSON'S ANTIQUITIES OF GREECE; being an Account of the Manners and Customs of the Greeks, designed to illustrate the GREEK CLASSICS, by explaining Words and Phrases according to the Rites and Customs to which they refer. To which are prefixed, a brief History of the Grecian States, and Biographical Sketches of the principal Greek Writers. Archbishop POTTER, LAKEMACHER, and Bos, contain nothing which is not in this Edition, which has also much useful matter not to be found in those works. The *Second* Edition, considerably enlarged and improved, and illustrated with Plates. 8vo. 17*s.* boards.

VIGER ON THE IDIOMS OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE; Translated into English, and abridged for the Use of Schools. By the Rev. J. SEAGER, Author of "Critical Observations on Classical Authors" and several Greek Criticisms in the Classical Journal. 8vo. 9*s*. 6*d*. bds.

HOOGEVEEN on GREEK PARTICLES, on the same Plan. By the Same. Pr. 8*s*. 6*d*.

BOS AND HERMAN are under abridgment on the same plan, and will form about 200 pages each, which may be purchased separately, or together in one vol. 8vo.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GREEK CLASSICS,

WITH ENGLISH NOTES, QUESTIONS, &c.

At the express desire of many eminent Schoolmasters, Mr. VALPY has commenced the publication of a SERIES of such portions of the GREEK AUTHORS as are chiefly read in the upper Classes of Schools and in Colleges. The best Texts are adopted, and the CRITICAL and EXPLANATORY NOTES are presented, it is presumed, in a more inviting and accessible form than those of Latin Commentators, by avoiding that profuseness of annotation which frequently anticipates the ingenuity, supersedes the industry, and retards rather than promotes the improvement of the pupil. EXAMINATION QUESTIONS, adapted to the points discussed in the Notes, and INDEXES, are also added; and the Series, it is hoped, will constitute a convenient introduction to the niceties and elegancies of Greek Literature, and to the perusal of that portion of the relics of antiquity which is best calculated to interest a youthful mind.

Each volume will be sold separately; and it is intended that all shall be published in a cheap duodecimo form.

The following are ready for delivery:

EURIPIDES.—*Hecuba*. By the Rev. J. R. MAJOR, M.A. Master of Wisbech School. 5*s*.

———— *Medea*. By the Same. 5*s*.

SOPHOCLES.—*Œdipus Tyrannus*. By the Rev. J. BRASSE, D.D., Late Fellow of Trin. Col. Camb. 5*s*.

THUCYDIDES, HERODOTUS, XENOPHON, DEMOSTHENES, &c. will speedily be published in succession.

THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL, No. LXXVI. For *December*, 1828. Pr. 6*s*. [*Continued Quarterly*.] Containing a Variety of *Classical, Biblical, and Oriental Literature*, with several Greek, Latin, English, and French Tracts interspersed.

00038091

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 10 February, 2016